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Saint Francis Care Selected to Participate in National Health Equity Initiative

(Hartford, Conn., July 7, 2015)—Saint Francis Care has been selected to participate in “National Initiative V”: *Improving Community Health and Health Equity through Medical Education*. The Initiative is sponsored by the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC), a national membership organization based in Chicago, IL.

The AIAMC National Initiative (NI) is the only national and multi-institutional collaborative of its kind in which resident physicians lead multidisciplinary teams in quality improvement projects aligned to their institution’s strategic goals. Fifty-five hospitals and health systems and more than 450 individuals have participated in the AIAMC National Initiatives since 2007 and have driven change that resulted in meaningful and sustainable outcomes which improved the quality and safety of patient care. Twenty-nine AIAMC-member hospitals and health systems were selected to participate in *National Initiative V*.

Saint Francis was selected based upon its demonstrated commitment to better understanding and reducing health disparities in its community. A leadership team from Saint Francis will collaborate with select hospitals from across the United States in engaging community partnerships that will result in better care for at-risk populations. Marcus McKinney, D. Min., LPC, Vice President, Community Health Equity and Health Policy at Saint Francis will attend four on-site learning sessions as well as monthly networking teleconferences and educational webinars during the 18-month period of the *National Initiative*.

“Health disparities in the United States are well documented, and academic medical centers play a critical dual role in addressing this national problem: 1) they train medical residents and fellows, the future physician workforce, and 2) many academic medical centers are key safety net providers,” said Kimberly Pierce-Boggs, AIAMC Executive Director. “The time is right for forward-thinking academic medical centers to proactively address community health needs while at the same time reforming residency training by involving trainees directly in community-based initiatives designed to improve health and reduce disparities.”

“Our inclusion in this prestigious organization is a testament to our continuing commitment to health equity for the patients we serve,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Care.

“We look forward to participating in the educational and collaborative programs that the National Health Equity Initiative offers,” McKinney said. “In our work at the *Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity*, we are exploring new ways to bridge the divide between the system of healthcare delivery and the current needs of community members who choose Saint Francis as their healthcare provider.”

About the AIAMC

The AIAMC was founded in 1989 and its membership includes 73 academic hospitals and health systems representing more than 750 senior medical academic leaders. Membership in the association is unique in that AIAMC members are affiliated with medical schools but are independent of medical school ownership or governance. AIAMC members regard medical education and research as strategic assets in providing patient-centered care. As the only national organization focused on the needs of independent academic medical centers, the AIAMC is uniquely sized and poised to provide its members with the core, foundational value of networking. Networking in the AIAMC takes on many forms through its key values of creating and sharing best practices, delivering relevant and targeted services and providing strong and respected representation. For more information on the AIAMC and its National Initiatives, visit www.aiamc.org.

About Saint Francis Care

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis Health*Care* Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital, Evergreen Health Care Center, and Home and Community Health Services, is also a Saint Francis *Care* Partner. Saint Francis *Care*'s services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.

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