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**CHA to Recognize Danbury Hospital's Majid Sadigh, MD, as a Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 98th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Majid Sadigh, MD, Director of the Global Health Program, Danbury Hospital, Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN), as a 2016 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated for this award by Andrea Rynn.

As a four-year-old boy living in impoverished Iran, Dr. Sadigh knew he wanted to become a physician to help alleviate the pain and suffering he witnessed in his embattled country. Despite the challenges of his youth and his family's tumultuous escape from war-torn Iran, he landed in the U.S. as a refugee in 1984 and began his mission in global health immediately following training in internal medicine and infectious diseases. Sadly, to this day, Dr. Sadigh cannot return to his homeland, yet he channels his energy into a greater mission: being a "physician of the world."

In his work, Dr. Sadigh travels the globe responding to various calls for humanitarian aid, with a focus on providing critical medical care and easing the suffering of others. He is particularly devoted to improving health in resource-limited countries in which inhabitants often experience great hardships and unavoidable health crises.

In addition to his role at WCHN, he serves as an Associate Professor and the Director of Global Health at the University of Vermont College of Medicine where, each year, he leads medical students, residents, and physicians to resource-limited countries to be trained in understanding the complexities of healthcare delivery across many borders with the hope of reducing health inequity. The group's most recent trip to Uganda was featured in a five-part series by Hearst Connecticut Media Group, titled "A Connecticut Doctor in Africa."

Aside from his work in global health education, most of Dr. Sadigh's career has been dedicated to fighting HIV worldwide. He brought to the attention of public health officials the impending HIV epidemic in 1997 in Kazan, Russia, where he has continued his role as teacher and clinician throughout the years. He has been involved in defeating the HIV crisis in Africa, working in Uganda since 2002, Zimbabwe since 2004, Botswana since 2005, and Rwanda since 2010. In addition to his work to stop HIV, Dr. Sadigh provided response in Sri Lanka after the tsunami of 2004, as well as after the genocide in East Timor in 1999. In 2014, he was called upon by AmeriCares and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support medical outreach in Liberia. After extensive preparation and training, he spent

many weeks serving as the Chief Medical Officer of the second American-made Ebola Treatment Unit, and as one of the main trainers of national healthcare workers in the prevention and treatment of Ebola in Buchanan. He returned to Connecticut with skills and insight pivotal in preparing WCHN staff and hospitals to ensure appropriate response in the event that such a crisis emerged in Connecticut.

Dr. Sadigh has taught us all that borders can stretch beyond the boundaries of one's heart, talent, and imagination.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes award was developed in 2002 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. Now in its 15th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.

