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**SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER SCHOOL OF INVASIVE
CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**
First in New England to establish growing program

Hartford, CT (July 31, 2015) - *The Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology* at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center recently received programmatic accreditation from the national Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

The program is the first of its kind in New England and one of only a handful of hospital-based cath lab schools in the country.

"We are thrilled to receive our official accreditation," said Jeffrey C. Hill, BSBA, ACS, RDCS, FASE, Program Director, Clinical Coordinator, *School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology*. "I am honored to report we received an A+ during the accreditation site visit, which is testimony to the quality, dedication and commitment of our hospital and all involved in the delivery of high-quality education. In addition, we have an excellent track record in training our students, and the accreditation solidifies our position as the top school in the Northeast."

The one-year program trains students to become invasive specialists and work with physicians and nurses in the field of invasive cardiology to assist in diagnostic heart procedures in the catheterization laboratory (cath Lab) setting. Students concentrate on core, didactic, lab and clinical cardiovascular courses. The program also incorporates a clinical practicum at Saint Francis and affiliated hospitals throughout southern New England.

"Our progressive curriculum combines compassion and expertise to prepare students to enter the Invasive Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) profession, which is one of the fastest-growing fields in healthcare. With the demand for highly skilled healthcare workers increasing, the *School of Invasive Cardiovascular Technology* has been developed to meet the needs of the profession and community," said Daniel J. Diver, M.D., Medical Director, *Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut* and Chief of Cardiology at Saint Francis.

The first graduating class ceremony is scheduled for September 23, 2015 at Saint Francis.

The *Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute* also has an award-winning accredited *School of Cardiac Ultrasound*, recognized as one of the most successful cardiac ultrasound programs in the country.

For more information, visit:

http://www.stfranciscare.org/Programs_and_Services/HoffmanHeart_2/School_of_Invasive_Cardiovascular_Technology/School_of_Invasive_Cardiovascular_Technology.aspx

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 HealthCare Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital, 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.