



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHA to Recognize Steven Schutzer, MD, of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 98th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Steven Schutzer, MD, Founder and Medical Director of the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, as a 2016 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated for this award by Stephanie Kelly and John Grady-Benson.

Dr. Schutzer, a nationally respected orthopedic surgery expert, recognized long ago that the demand for total joint replacement (TJR) surgery would climb significantly in the coming years. He was right; there is now a projected demand of more than 4 million TJR's by 2030. Dr. Schutzer's leadership in TJR has transformed the culture and quality of care in New England, and his work is now becoming a model for value-based healthcare across the country.

The creation of the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute (CJRI) nine years ago was due to Dr. Schutzer's vision of a new model for healthcare delivery. After leading a group of his Orthopedic Associates of Hartford partners to Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, he engineered a co-management agreement between a group of nine other competing orthopedic TJR surgeons from five practices and the Saint Francis administration.

Nine years and 25,000 TJR patients later, Dr. Schutzer's pivotal leadership as the Medical Director of CJRI has dramatically improved quality and safety for TJR patients. CJRI is the largest TJR center in Connecticut, with patient satisfaction scores sustained in the 99th percentile, and the program is acknowledged for its low costs and high quality. CJRI has also received multiple, multiyear awards, including those from HealthGrades, Leap Frog, Becker's, Consumer Reports (5-star rating), and U.S. News & World Report.

Dr. Schutzer has also forged a strong relationship with the Harvard Business School to align CJRI and fellow institutions with a nationally recognized agenda to improve healthcare value in TJR. CJRI is credited with having created not one, but five bundled payment programs.

"Dr. Steve" is also actively engaged in his community, serving as a mentor and advisor to Nutmeg Big Brothers and Sisters since 2000, serving on the Board of Directors of the Center for Neuro-functional Restoration, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Surgeons, LLC, and dancEnlight, a modern dance

company. In addition to his full-time role as Medical Director of CJRI, he remains a full-time practitioner with a busy practice. He is a multi-year recipient of numerous awards, including Best Doctor in America, Top Docs in Connecticut, and Hartford Top Doc.

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.



