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Saint Francis Hospital Only Connecticut Hospital With Latest CyberKnife Technology

HARTFORD, Conn. (February 5, 2020) - Saint Francis Hospital is pleased to announce it has recently installed a new, updated CyberKnife® system which allows some patients with cancer to drastically reduce the number of treatments as well as the length of time for each treatment. Saint Francis is the only hospital in Connecticut with this state-of-the-art technology. Patients will be able to receive targeted cancer radiation treatment in only one to five sessions, compared to up to six weeks with conventional radiation therapy.

“We are excited to offer our patients a system that has been proven highly effective over the last 15 years,” said Dr. Richard Shumway, director of CyberKnife and senior attending physician, Radiation Oncology, Saint Francis Hospital. “Here at Saint Francis Hospital, more than 1,900 patients have received the benefits of this innovative technology through our former CyberKnife system. Now, with the latest CyberKnife system, we can provide our patients this focused radiation treatment in half the time as the previous unit.”

This technology is here today in large part because of a very gracious donor, Nancy O’Connell, who committed \$1 million towards this CyberKnife. Nancy and her late husband, Mr. Dan O’Connell, had a long-standing desire to help support clinical research and therapeutic protocols at the highest level. Saint Francis Hospital had the privilege of caring for John T. O’Connell, the son of Dan and Nancy, during his battle with bone cancer (Ewing Sarcoma). John was just 20 years old when he passed. In honor of their son’s memory, Dan and Nancy established a fund to provide assistance to our hospital, specifically to our Cancer Center.

CyberKnife® is the world's first and only robotic radiosurgery system available. The technology utilizes highly sophisticated robotics to target and destroy tumors or non-cancerous lesions anywhere in the body. Although its name suggests scalpels, operating rooms and recovery time, CyberKnife® involves no cutting, pain or hospital stay. CyberKnife® has proven to be an effective alternative to surgery or conventional radiation therapy for treating tumors and cancers located anywhere in the body. Ultimately, this approach to cancer treatment offers patients excellent control over their disease resulting in high survival rates, including for those with tumors previously diagnosed as 'inoperable,' or

those who have already received the maximum amount of radiation through other treatment methods.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the CyberKnife® system for the treatment of tumors and lesions when radiation is indicated. CyberKnife® treatment is covered by Medicare and most commercial insurance companies.

About Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor institution in Connecticut since 1897. Saint Francis, a member of Trinity Health Of New England and Trinity Health, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. Saint Francis Hospital, a Level 1 Trauma Center, is a 617 bed hospital and a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other Saint Francis entities include the Comprehensive Women’s Health Center, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis, and Trinity Health Of New England Medical Group. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @SaintFrancisCT