

NEWS RELEASE

**St. Mary's Medical Center Launches
University of Vermont College of Medicine
Medical Student Education Program**

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – (March 22, 2011) — Aiming to improve the future of health care in Palm Beach County, St. Mary's Medical Center is teaming up with the University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine in Burlington to give future physicians the opportunity to participate in clinical education alongside practicing doctors in our community.

“We are very privileged to become a partner in medical education with such a respected program like that at the University of Vermont,” said Davide Carbone, Chief Executive Officer at St. Mary's. “We look forward to a collaborative educational experience benefiting both the medical students and residents of Palm Beach County.”

As part of the program, to be piloted as early as Spring 2010, UVM medical students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clinical clerkship rotations at St. Mary's, designed to achieve the educational competencies required by the Vermont Integrated Curriculum in place at UVM. While this is the first formal medical student program to be hosted at St. Mary's, with more than 900 students per year, the hospital is already one of the largest teaching and training facilities in our area for non-physician healthcare professionals such as nursing, pharmacy, radiology, respiratory and physical therapy students. The Vermont Integrated Curriculum will be taught by physicians on staff at St. Mary's, and will be the equivalent of the education and training medical students receive in all UVM affiliated clinical settings.

UVM's innovative curriculum is supported by COMET (College of Medicine Education Tools), which is an award winning hybrid learning environment, including reusable learning objects, virtual reality models, streaming audio and video, as well as online exams. COMET's integrated teaching and learning environment will help to foster the productivity and growth of world class medical students at St Mary's.

This new affiliation will not only benefit St. Mary's and UVM, but will also provide additional programs and services to the community.

“St. Mary's offers a wealth of expanding clinical services and excellent educational opportunities for the incoming medical students,” said Carbone. “We're very happy about this partnership and look forward to a long and rewarding experience with the University of Vermont.”

The affiliation agreement builds on both St. Mary's and UVM's common goal of training medical students to provide quality care. Once the details of the clinical education program are established, UVM medical students will have the opportunity to complete

portions of their second, third or fourth-year education at St. Mary's under the supervision of their physician educators. Long term and additional benefits of this relationship could be the recruitment of local area college students to become medical students at UVM and recruitment of graduates of the UVM College of Medicine to practice in the greater West Palm Beach area.

“This exciting new alliance will complement our educational program, already ranked among the best in the nation, by bringing geographic and demographic diversity to the patient care experience for our students,” said Frederick C. Morin III, M.D., Dean of the UVM College of Medicine. “We are impressed with St. Mary's reputation for clinical excellence and the central role they play in the community, both of which are important to our school's mission, and look forward to working with them to educate the next generation of competent caring physicians.”

###

About University of Vermont College of Medicine

The University of Vermont College of Medicine was founded in 1822 as the nation's seventh medical school. The College consistently ranks in the top tier for Primary Care Education in the annual US News & World Report Best Graduate Schools, ranking 6th in the 2010 edition. The Vermont Integrated Curriculum is widely recognized as one of the most innovative approaches to medical education in the nation, offering students early access to broad clinical experience, the opportunity to work with internationally known researchers, and an emphasis on community service. Enrollment currently includes 458 medical students, 116 graduate students, and 283 residents and fellows. The College employs 553 full-time faculty and over 1500 part-time faculty participating in medical education of students. For more information, visit www.med.uvm.edu

About St. Mary's Medical Center

St. Mary's Medical Center is a 463-bed acute care hospital located at 901 45th Street in West Palm Beach. The hospital has been serving the medical and health care needs of the greater West Palm Beach area for more than 70 years. St. Mary's Medical Center offers a broad array of services, including medical, surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, trauma and emergency services. St. Mary's specialty services include a pediatric trauma center, 24-hour children's emergency department, pediatric intensive care unit, high-risk obstetrical unit, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Children's Hospital at St. Mary's, the Rehabilitation Institute, and the Memory Disorders Center. St. Mary's Medical Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. To learn more about St. Mary's Medical Center, visit www.stmarysmc.com.