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NEW BRUNSWICK HOSPITALS AND RUTGERS UNIVERSITY TO REVEAL RESULTS OF SURVEY IDENTIFYING MIDDLESEX AND SOMERSET COUNTIES' HEALTH CARE NEEDS ON APRIL 16

(New Brunswick)- Findings from a community health needs assessment conducted by Saint Peter's University Hospital (SPUH), Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) and the Rutgers University Center for State Health Policy will be revealed during a special program, "Caring for Our Communities: A partnership for a healthy future," on Tuesday, April 16.

The program takes place from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Rutgers University Center for State Health Policy, 112 Paterson Street in New Brunswick. Members of the media are invited to attend.

During the program, the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy will present results gathered from a year-long Community Health Needs Assessment that was supported by a \$249,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Health Initiatives grant. In addition, hospital, county and city officials will comment on the results. The RWJUH and SPUH grant was one of six awarded in the state. Program speakers include:

- Joel Cantor, Sc.D., Director of the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy
- James Cahill, Mayor of the City of New Brunswick
- H. James Polos, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

- Mark Caliguire, Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- Ronald C. Rak, JD, President and CEO, Saint Peter's Healthcare System
- Stephen K. Jones, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Health System

Information collected from bilingual telephone interviews, focus groups as well as interviews with key "informants" such as local health departments and community-based organizations formed the basis of the report.

"The community needs assessment presents a clear road map of where we must travel in order to deliver the improved health care services our communities deserve," says Ronald Rak, JD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Peter's Healthcare System. "I look forward to this joint commitment among Saint Peter's Healthcare System, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, the City of New Brunswick, our county health departments and the citizens of the region. This unprecedented initiative is certain to yield a healthier populace."

"Clearly, the results show that there are several challenges that we, as health care providers, must meet in our communities," notes Stephen K. Jones, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson Health System. "This needs assessment gives us an excellent opportunity to partner with our colleagues at Saint Peter's, our local and county health departments and local residents to develop specific strategies to effectively meet these challenges and raise the health status of the diverse communities we serve."

The surveys showed that Middlesex and Somerset residents identified asthma, mental health, diabetes, dental health services, obesity (adult and childhood) and cardiovascular disease as key health care issues impacting their communities.

In addition, residents highlighted the following health care challenges in their communities:

- Lack of trained medical staff and health care providers in the areas of cultural competency, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and developmental disabilities
- Multiple language and cultural barriers due to diverse population within areas surveyed; lack of providers who speak the languages of patient populations

- Lack of health insurance, emergency room overuse and inconvenient medical office/clinic hours; lack of knowledge regarding navigation of health care system; long wait times for appointments
- Prevalence of “risky” health behaviors (seat belt use, binge drinking, smoking, lack of sleep)
- Increased tobacco use (among youths, the poor, uninsured)
- Lack of HIV/AIDS testing
- Overuse/inappropriate use of prescription medication; increased use of prescription medication by children

The hospitals and the county health departments will use the information to develop health improvement plans and new programs to address the key areas.

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About Saint Peter’s Healthcare System

Saint Peter’s Healthcare System Inc., parent company of the Saint Peter’s healthcare delivery system, is comprised of Saint Peter’s University Hospital, a 478-bed acute-care teaching hospital; Saint Peter’s Foundation, the fundraising arm of the hospital; and Saint Peter’s Health and Management Services Corporation, which oversees the system’s outpatient facilities. These include the CARES Surgicenter; New Brunswick Cardiac Cath Lab; the Margaret McLaughlin McCarrick Care Center, Inc., a residential skilled nursing facility in Somerset; and Saint Peter’s Adult Day Center in Monroe Township. Saint Peter’s Healthcare System is sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen. For more information about Saint Peter’s Healthcare System, please visit <http://www.saintpetershcs.com/> or call 732-745-8600.

About Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) is a 600-bed academic medical center and the principal hospital of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. Robert Wood Johnson is an innovative leader in advancing state-of-the-art care. RWJUH is the first hospital in the nation to implant the AbioCor self-contained artificial heart since the device received FDA approval in 2006. RWJUH is one of only three sites in the nation approved to offer this groundbreaking technology. Its Centers of Excellence include cardiovascular care from minimally invasive heart surgery to transplantation, cancer care, and women’s and children’s care including The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (www.bmsch.org). The hospital is also a Level 1 Trauma Center and serves as a national resource in its groundbreaking approaches to emergency preparedness. The hospital has earned significant national recognition for clinical quality and patient safety. RWJUH ranks among the best hospitals in America, according to *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2011 ranking of “America’s Best Hospitals.” It is the fifth consecutive year that RWJUH has achieved this prestigious ranking. The American College of Surgeons’ Commission on Cancer has rated RWJUH among the nation’s best comprehensive cancer centers. The Leapfrog Group rated RWJUH as one of the 50 exceptional U.S. hospitals, as published in *Consumers Digest* magazine. Harvard University

researchers, in a study commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund, identified RWJUH as one of the top 10 hospitals in the nation for clinical quality. RWJUH is also a four-time recipient of the prestigious Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence. Visit us online at www.rwjuh.edu.