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**Mission Internal Medical Group Will Affiliate with
St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare, Becoming Part of St. Joseph Health Network of Care**

An Affiliation to Provide Quality Care, Expanded Access to South Orange County

(August 6, 2012, Orange, CA) St. Joseph Health announced today Mission Internal Medical Group, Inc. (MIMG) will affiliate with St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare. Under this affiliation, MIMG will join St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare and its parent organization, St. Joseph Health.

St. Joseph Health is comprised of 14-hospitals, home health care and other services, as well as St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare, its statewide medical practice foundation. Mission Hospital and its campuses in Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach provide a wide range of hospital services to south Orange County residents. MIMG, together with Mission Hospital, will continue to provide a wide range of health care services to south Orange County residents.

Formed in 1970 by general internist Gerald Brennock, M.D., MIMG has grown to a 71-physician member internal medicine group with 11 specialties and currently serves approximately 150,000 patients. Additionally, it provides a number of unique services for its patients, including cardiac diagnostic studies, an infusion center, medical travel clinic and sleep center. Also, MIMG physicians are engaged in clinical trials and conduct ongoing research in cardiology, endocrinology, pulmonology and rheumatology.

St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare (SJHH) is a statewide physician practice organization that works with physicians practicing in large multi-specialty groups, as well as small independent practices in more than 30 different specialties. SJHH has been recognized for excellence by the Integrated HealthCare Association and National Committee for Quality Assurance. It provides members with extensive preventive care and education, as well as the benefits of an electronic medical record and online patient portal.

“We are proud to expand our network of physicians to include MIMG,” said Darrin Montalvo, executive vice president for St. Joseph Health’s Southern California region. “Today, health care delivery organizations are looking to build larger networks to support new health care models. Our new relationship with MIMG truly fulfills a shared vision of expanding our ability to provide compassionate care, promote health improvement and create healthy communities.”

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“This is an exciting day for Mission Hospital and for the residents of South Orange County,” said Kenn McFarland, president and CEO of Mission Hospital. “This affiliation is a catalyst to extend our mission and enhance widespread, quality-driven community health care. At Mission Hospital, we have always worked to ensure our communities receive excellent services delivered by outstanding people. And now, with this affiliation, we will bring even more to the people we serve.”

“St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare is excited to expand its list of physicians to include the well-respected doctors of MIMG,” says C.R. Burke, president and CEO of St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare. “When we looked to expand our presence in south Orange County, SJHH was careful to seek out like-minded doctors – those who have a proven track record of providing excellent care and delivering value. The MIMG doctors are an exceptional fit for SJHH.”

“Recognizing the realities of health care today, MIMG has been seeking the right organization for affiliation for some time. Partnering with St. Joseph Health will provide us with a great opportunity for future growth and continued success,” says Rudy Marquez, M.D., president of Mission Internal Medical Group. “We are happy to be joining a network that is equally dedicated to its communities.”

Mission Hospital, with campuses in Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach, recently achieved Magnet status for nursing excellence and is the region’s only designated trauma center. Mission is also a designated neuro-stroke and cardiac receiving center, offering 24-hour emergency care and specialized services for imaging, maternity, and behavioral health. Mission Hospital is the only individual hospital to twice earn an Ernest A. Codman Award by the Joint Commission.

Mission Internal Medical Group celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2012. With 71 physicians representing 11 different specialties, it is focused on quality care for South Orange County. The widely respected physicians engage in medical research and many clinical trials. Dedicated to providing comprehensive, quality services, MIMG offers unique ancillary services such as a sleep center, vascular lab, CT and physical therapy.

St. Joseph Health is a non-profit, faith-based health care delivery organization serving California, Texas and New Mexico. In Southern California, its hospitals include Mission Hospital with campuses in Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach; St. Joseph Hospital in Orange; St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton and St. Mary Medical Center in Apple Valley, along with St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare and home health care services. Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, St. Joseph Health strives to achieve its mission by realizing three strategic goals: Sacred Encounters, Perfect Care and Healthiest Communities.

St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare is a statewide California Medical Practice Foundation. In Southern California, St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare includes Mission Hospital Affiliated Physicians; Mission Heritage Medical Group; St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group; St. Joseph Hospital Affiliated Physicians; St. Jude Heritage Medical Group; St. Jude Affiliated Physicians; St. Mary Specialty Clinic and now, Mission Internal Medical Group.