For Immediate Release – Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Eau Claire Family Medicine Residency Program to Transition to Community-Based Program

Eau Claire – Prevea Health, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), are pleased to announce a collaborative effort to keep the Eau Claire Family Medicine Residency Program (ECFMRP) in the Chippewa Valley.

The ECFMRP, established by UW SMPH in 1975, is a three-year program that trains family medicine physicians at clinics in Eau Claire and Augusta. Its presence in the Chippewa Valley addresses the need for primary care physicians in rural communities throughout the region.

“As the originator of the Eau Claire residency program, we are thrilled that the program will continue on a stable footing with the support of multiple partners in education and patient care,” said Dr. Robert Golden, UW SMPH dean. “Primary-care residencies provide great value to the state and we’re pleased at the level of local commitment and collaboration that is now associated with this program.”

Effective July 1, 2017, ECFMRP will be operated by Prevea Health and HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, in conjunction with UW SMPH (the long-time sponsor of the ECFMRP) and MCW. The four organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a collaborative effort to transition the program from an academic program sponsored by UW SMPH to a community-based program sponsored by Prevea Health and HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital.

“Prevea Health is incredibly honored to become part of the Eau Claire Family Medicine Residency Program and to help ensure it stays a part of the Chippewa Valley community for many years to come,” said Dr. Ashok Rai, Prevea Health president and CEO.

“MCW is committed to providing graduate medical education opportunities to train the next generation of physicians who will practice in Wisconsin. We are fortunate to have such great partners who share and support this vision, as evidenced by the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding,” said Joseph E. Kerschner, MD, executive vice president of MCW and dean of the school of medicine.

As a result of the transition on July 1, 2017, the UW SMPH clinics in Augusta and Eau Claire will become Prevea health centers which will continue to host residents and provide family medicine services within each community. Eau Claire Family Medicine Residency Program residents will also continue to receive valuable training at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital.

“There continues to be a need in Wisconsin as well as across the country for primary care physicians,” said Julie Manas, President and CEO of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. “Being a proactive part of the solution to this shortage is important and will benefit our community now and into the future.”

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About the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

The University Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health is the nation’s first and only school that integrates medical education with public-health training. It offers medical, graduate and health-professions programs and is the largest single recipient of research funds on the UW-Madison campus. The department of family medicine and community health is regularly ranked among the nation’s top programs.

About Prevea Health

Prevea Health’s mission is to care for people with passion, pride, and respect. Founded in 1996, Prevea Health partners with HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay, HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan, HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital in Oconto Falls, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire and HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls, to provide access to more than 200 physicians in more than 60 specialty areas. Prevea has more than 40 locations throughout Northeast Wisconsin and Western Wisconsin’s Chippewa Valley region. For more information, visit www.prevea.com.

About the Medical College of Wisconsin

The Medical College of Wisconsin is the state’s only private medical school and health sciences graduate school. Founded in 1893, it is dedicated to leadership and excellence in education, patient care, research and community engagement. More than 1,200 students are enrolled in MCW’s medical school and graduate school programs in Milwaukee, 56 medical students enrolled at MCW-Green Bay, and 26 students matriculated to MCW-Central Wisconsin in 2016. MCW’s School of Pharmacy will open in 2017 or 2018 with an initial class size of 60 students. A major national research center, MCW is the largest research institution in the Milwaukee metro area and second largest in Wisconsin. In FY 2014-15, faculty received approximately $158 million in external support for research, teaching, training and related purposes, of which approximately $139 million is for research. This total includes highly competitive research and training awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Annually, MCW faculty direct or collaborate on more than 3,200 research studies, including clinical trials. Additionally, more than 1,500 physicians provide care in virtually every specialty of medicine for more than 525,000 patients annually.

About HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is the Founding Institute, and it is an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System. Since 1889, it has been meeting patient needs in western Wisconsin with the latest medical innovations and technology, together with a Franciscan whole-person healing tradition.

About Hospital Sisters Health System

Hospital Sisters Health System’s (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ’s healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 15 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan, and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, and Hospital Sisters of St. Francis is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org. For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit www.hospitalsisters.org.