

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kelly Kearney, Clarity Marketing: 860.658.4361

CONNECTICUT ADVOCATES FOR PARKINSON'S, HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL CARE TEAM-UP

(New Britain, June 2015) – In a meeting held earlier this spring at Hospital for Special Care (HSC) in New Britain, the framework for a collaborative working partnership was agreed to between Connecticut Advocates for Parkinson's (CAP) and the Neurological and Neuromuscular units of HSC.

The relationship is considered to be one of the first of its kind between a patient- based organization and Health Care facility to jointly pursue and conduct clinical trials, as well as produce education and wellness programs for medical professionals and the patients they serve.

Steve DeWitte, CAP Board co-chair, believes the collaboration will be mutually beneficial. "As advocates for people with Parkinson's we have sought a partnership that allows us to be involved in the development and participation in studies, not just as a subject or funder of clinical trials. We are ready and willing to assist HSC in its research and clinical trial initiatives, and we offer a tremendous resource that can share feedback in a way that is both meaningful and scientifically relevant."

Dr. Adam Simmons, a Movement Disorders Specialist at HSC, and Dr. Kevin Felice, a Neuromuscular Neurologist at HSC, believe the partnership will offer a resource that Parkinson's patients can use themselves and that will benefit others with the disease. In a joint statement, they said: "Our objectives include the collection of data that may ultimately make a meaningful impact on the lives of those with Parkinson's, and to provide a forum for information- sharing that can benefit patients, researchers and physicians. This is a long-term, big picture view that goes to the core of our mission as an organization, including the active involvement of those we serve, as well as education, research and rehabilitation."

Among the initiatives being considered are: support of upcoming Parkinson's research projects, with an ongoing emphasis on studies that measure the effectiveness of specific exercise regimes; creating and presenting a joint patient/care provider conference that allows for both patients & their doctor/therapist education on some of the latest advances with an emphasis on exercise; and expanding the dialogue between people with Parkinson's and their treating neurologists to maximize data and best-practice sharing.

###

Connecticut Advocates for Parkinson's is a registered 501 (c) (3) public charity that offers positive support for people with Parkinson's disease (PD). CAP's Mission is to promote action steps toward the ultimate goals of slowing the progression of the disease and finding the cure. CAP is a proud member of a consortium of Support Groups identified as the "Make a Difference Parkinson's Alliance" that support over three hundred

PWP and their families. PD is a chronic and progressive movement disorder, believed to affect nearly one million people in the United States. For more information go to parkinsonsct.org

About Hospital for Special Care

Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is one of the five largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospitals in the United States and the nation's only long-term acute-care hospital serving adults and children. HSC is recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in pulmonary care, acquired brain injury, medically-complex pediatrics, neuromuscular disorders (including ALS research), spinal cord injury, comprehensive heart failure as well as diagnostic, assessment and consulting services for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders.

Located in New Britain and Hartford, CT, HSC operates inpatient and outpatient facilities serving Southern New England on a not-for-profit basis. For the latest news and information, please visit www.hfsc.org, and follow us on Twitter [@HospSpecialCare](https://twitter.com/HospSpecialCare) and Facebook.