

NEWS RELEASE

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**St. Mary Medical Center to Host Journey to Zero Harm Patient Safety Symposium
Renowned Patient Safety Advocates Dr. Charles Denham and Dr. Rory Jaffe to Speak to Audience of
Clinicians and Leaders from Across Dignity Health Network of Hospitals**

Long Beach, CA – October 4, 2012 -- St Mary Medical Center, a patient safety advocate named as one of the nation's top 5% in patient safety by HealthGrades, will host a Patient Safety Symposium: The Journey to Zero Harm on October 8, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the St. Mary Health Enhancement Center at 1055 Linden Avenue in Long Beach. The event has been funded by the St. Mary Medical Center Foundation. Two renowned patient safety advocates, Dr Charles Denham and Dr Rory Jaffe will speak to an audience of clinicians and leadership who will come together from throughout the Dignity Health system to discuss how to proactively prevent medical mistakes and near misses.

“As medical professionals, we hear about the thousands of patients across the nation who are injured or die each year because of medical mistakes. These numbers continue to rise despite all the regulations and safety goals put into place by organizations such as The Joint Commission and CMS,” said Thomas Salerno, St. Mary President & CEO. “This symposium will allow us to learn from the experts while taking a closer look at patient and family insights.”

Dr. Charles Denham is Chairman of Texas Medical Institute of Technology, a non-profit medical research organization driving adoption of health care performance improvement solutions. Dr. Denham has been named in Becker's Hospital Review as one of the 13 most influential Patient Safety Advocates in the United States. Dr Rory Jaffe is the Executive Director of The California Hospital Patient Safety Organization. He is Board Certified in Anesthesiology. His expertise includes compliance, health information privacy and security, patient safety, quality of care measurement and improvement, licensure and accreditation and risk management.

Montgomery Cole, an attorney and partner at Madden, Jones, Cole & Johnson in Seal Beach will also present. He has been in practice for 32 years and handles a wide range of litigation matters, including representation of families and patients in medical malpractice cases.

In addition, [Surfing the Healthcare Tsunami](#), an eye-opening documentary about the cutting edge of patient safety improvements will be featured. Finally, each participant in the symposium will be given a complimentary copy of the book “Why Hospitals Should Fly, The Ultimate Flight Plan to Patient Safety and Quality Care,” written by John J. Nance, JD.

About St. Mary Medical Center Foundation

The St. Mary Foundation was founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1970 to raise, administer and distribute funds in support of the mission of the Sisters of Charity and St. Mary Medical Center. The Foundation supports hospital programs, research and education, as well as capital improvements, including equipment purchases. For more information, please visit us at www.supportstmary.org.

About St. Mary Medical Center

Founded by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in 1923, St. Mary Medical Center, a member of Dignity Health, offers a full continuum of primary and secondary acute care services to the Greater Long Beach community. With more than 600 physicians, 1,456 employees and 389 private rooms, St. Mary is committed to providing a unique balance of leading edge technology, while ensuring dignity and compassionate care of mind, body and spirit to the community it serves. For more information, please visit us at <http://www.stmarymedicalcenter.org>.