



LEADERS IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
A caring not-for-profit partnership of Bellin Health, St. Mary's and St. Vincent Hospitals

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNITY'S MEDICAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED CHAIR
OF THE WISCONSIN CANCER COUNCIL**

Rance Hafner, M.D., Assumes Leadership Position

Green Bay, Wis. – February 18, 2008 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, announces the naming of its medical director, Rance Hafner, M.D., as the 2008 Chair of the Wisconsin Cancer Council. The Wisconsin Cancer Council (WCC) is a coalition of more than 55 statewide and regional organizations committed to reducing the burden of cancer in Wisconsin. He was elected to the position by its membership.

In his role as Chairman, Hafner oversees the work of the Wisconsin Cancer Council Steering Committee and its various sub-committees and task forces, managing implementation of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2005-2010, which is part of a national initiative. He conducts the WCC Membership and Steering Committee meetings, serves ex-officio on committees and consults with WCC staff on relevant issues. Hafner is also a spokesman for the Wisconsin Cancer Council.

On his new role, Hafner states, "I am impressed by this group of state thought-leaders and the goals they have to work with people on survivorship issues, disparities on rural health and cancer issues. They not only focus on Wisconsin, but reach out to the national and federal levels as well, creating common solutions to challenging issues."



Hafner began working with the Wisconsin Cancer Council in 2003 to increase understanding of and access to palliative care services and previously served as chair-elect. Palliative care is a specialty that focuses on the relief of suffering and the improvement in quality of life across the spectrum of an illness. The Wisconsin Cancer Council has previously recognized Unity for its leading work in palliative care, a program that it has provided to the community since 2002.

As Unity's medical director, Hafner oversees the end-of-life patient care programs, working with the nursing staff, social workers, chaplains, grief counselors and volunteers to deliver the highest quality care possible to patients and their families. He has been a member of the Unity team since June 2001. Hafner is certified as a palliative care physician from the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (ABHPM), a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the Medical Society of Wisconsin and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM). He resides in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with his wife, Kristin, and sons Samuel, Maxwell and Jacob.

About Unity

Unity, a not-for-profit leader in hospice and palliative care, is a partnership of Green Bay's three not-for-profit hospitals – Bellin Health, St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital. Unity is a continuation of the former Bellin Hospice program founded in 1977. Unity provides community-based hospice and palliative care, residential hospice care and grief support in twelve counties in Northeast Wisconsin. Unity is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO).

Unity is based in the Green Bay area with offices in Marinette, Shawano and Sturgeon Bay. For more information call (920) 338-1111 or visit www.unityhospice.org.

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