



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

Media Contact:

Laura Jarosz
Director of Development
Unity
(920) 338-1111
ljarosz@unityhospice.org

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Unity Physicians Achieve Specialty Certification in
Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

Green Bay, Wis. – March 3, 2009 – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced two of its physicians, Rance Hafner, MD, and James McGovern, MD, received the Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) in Hospice & Palliative Medicine from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in the certificate's first offering.

Promoting professional development is a core value at Unity. Subspecialty certificates granted by the ABMS are widely recognized by government, healthcare systems, insurers and patients themselves as essential tools to judge that a physician has the knowledge, experience and skills for providing quality healthcare within a given specialty or subspecialty and are considered the premium standard for care. Unity recognizes the growing demand within the communities it serves for quality, end-of-life care services provided by skilled professionals and takes pride in its physicians' achievements.

Ten member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties, including the American Board of Family Medicine and American Board of Internal Medicine, are co-sponsoring the certificate to recognize excellence among certified physicians who emphasize the care of seriously ill and dying patients with life-limiting illnesses in their practice. The field of hospice and palliative medicine is based on expanding scientific knowledge about symptom control when cure is not possible and appropriate care during the last months of life.

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About Rance Hafner, MD

Rance Hafner, MD, Unity's medical director, 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 by the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) and 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); and served as the 2008 Chair of the Wisconsin Cancer Council. He resides in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with his wife, Kristin, and their children Samuel, Maxwell, Jacob and Kathryn.

About James McGovern, MD

James McGovern, MD, Unity's medical advisor, advances the end-of-life patient care programs by consulting with staff and visiting with patients to discuss their disease progression, evaluate symptoms and determine program eligibility. McGovern spent his career as a medical oncologist with Green Bay Oncology. He was involved with Unity's predecessor Bellin Hospice, beginning in 1982, and played a significant role in the development of Unity in 1993. Since retiring in 2005, he has served in his current role. McGovern is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) in Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, and Hospice and Palliative Care. He belongs to the American Medical Association (AMA), American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Society of Hematology (ASH), American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) and the American College of Physicians (ACP). McGovern resides in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He and his wife Bernadette have four children.

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



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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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