

## CharterCARE Health Partners, Prospect Medical Holdings Launch Partnership

PROVIDENCE – CharterCARE Health Partners, corporate parent of Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, and Prospect Medical Holdings, Inc., announced a new joint venture which took effect June 20.

Prospect CharterCARE, LLC, the new joint venture company, which will do business as CharterCARE Health Partners, is jointly owned by Prospect and CharterCARE. The company will operate Roger Williams Medical Center, Fatima Hospital, St. Joseph Health Center and Elmhurst Extended Care and will develop, through acquisitions and partnerships, a coordinated regional health network that will include physician practices, urgent care centers, nursing homes and ancillary health providers such as diagnostic labs.

Prospect, which will have a majority interest in the new company, will provide an immediate infusion of capital which will be used to retire the two hospitals' long-term debt and invest in the facilities and equipment, as well as support development of the new network.

Prospect and CharterCARE equally share seats on the new company's eight-member governing board. **EDWIN SANTOS**, current chairman of CharterCARE, will serve as the new board's chair. **THOMAS REARDON**, President of Prospect East Holdings, Inc., said, "Prospect will focus on collaboration among hospitals, physicians, medical groups urgent care centers, nursing homes, and other providers, in cooperation with health plans. Our goal is to provide Rhode Islanders with the health care they need at the right time, in the right place, compassionately and efficiently." ❖

## Rhode Island Hospital Receives National Cancer Award

PROVIDENCE – The Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) at Rhode Island Hospital has received the 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Surgeons' (ACS) Commission on Cancer (CoC). Rhode Island Hospital is one of only 74 U.S. health care facilities with accredited cancer programs to receive this national honor for surveys performed in 2013. The award acknowledges cancer programs that achieve excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients.

The Leonard and Adele R. Decof Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Miriam Hospital received this award in 2012.

"Each day the staff at the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Rhode Island Hospital demonstrates its unwavering commitment to our patients," said **JAMES BUTERA, MD**, medical director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. "That commitment ranges from providing patients with the highest quality medical care to the most innovative clinical trials, from effective educational tools to compassionate support programs. This award recognizes that commitment and rewards our team for all of its hard work."

The Comprehensive Cancer Center at Rhode Island Hospital was evaluated in 2013 on 34 program standards categorized within one of five cancer program activity areas: cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, cancer conferences, clinical services and quality improvement. The program was further evaluated on seven commendation standards. To be eligible, all award recipients must have received commendation ratings in all seven commendation standards, in addition to receiving a compliance rating for each of the 34 other standards. ❖

## URI Awarded Nearly \$19M to Expand Biomedical Research

*New phase to focus on cancer, neuroscience and molecular toxicology*

KINGSTON – A University of Rhode Island-based initiative that has successfully expanded biomedical research capacity at nearly all of Rhode Island's universities and colleges has been awarded another \$18.8 million in federal funding to expand the program over the next five years.

The Rhode Island IDEA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (RI-INBRE), which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2001 with \$42 million in grants to URI as the lead institution, was initially established to expand the statewide research capacity in biomedical sciences. With this next phase of funding, the interrelated research areas of cancer, neuroscience and molecular toxicology will now be the focus of the program.

The University of Rhode Island partners with Brown University, Rhode Island College, Providence College, Bryant University, Roger Williams University and Salve Regina University in the RI-INBRE program. The Community College of Rhode Island is an affiliate of the network, and its students participate in research opportunities at URI.

**ZAHIR SHAIKH**, professor of pharmacology and toxicology in URI's College of Pharmacy, has been the principal investigator and program director of the project since its inception in 2001.

Shaikh, and Program Coordinator David Rowley, URI professor of biomedical sciences at the College of Pharmacy, said the grant renewal allows the network to expand. "We are now putting the focus on disease states, like cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other neurological diseases," he said.

Shaikh said the grant application pre-dates last November's establishment of the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience at URI through a \$15 million gift from Tom and Cathy Ryan, but the Ryan Institute, combined with URI's Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program and the focus of the grant renewal for the biomedical network, means Rhode Island can accelerate its already strong momentum in neurological research.

"Neuroscience and cancer are not just priorities for us at URI," Rowley said. "They are research priorities for Rhode Island and the nation. This will continue to be a capacity building grant, and it will catalyze the growth and competitiveness of investigators."