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SAN DIEGO PHYSICIAN VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE LIFECHANGING PRO BONO SURGERIES

Champions for Health and Carlsbad Surgery Center Partner to Heal San Diego's Uninsured

SAN DIEGO – On April 29, Saturday Surgery Day will once again provide life-changing medical care to uninsured San Diegans, at Carlsbad Surgery Center, located at 6121 Paseo Del Norte, Suite 100, Carlsbad, CA 92011.

Champions for Health will facilitate nine pro bono surgeries (8 hernia repairs and 1 lipoma excision) for low-income San Diegans without health insurance, in partnership with Carlsbad Surgery Center, physician volunteers Adam Fierer, M.D., and Dhruvil Ghandi, M.D., and anesthesiologists Steven Saltz, M.D., LaDawn Farhoomand, M.D., and Steven Suydam, M.D.

Since 2011, Carlsbad Surgery Center has participated in Champion for Health's Saturday Surgery Day program, providing pro bono surgeries to 49 low-income, uninsured patients.

Scott Leggett, Chief Executive Office of Surgery One, who co-manages the Carlsbad Surgery Center with Sutter Health, shares, "we are proud to help these patients regain their health. We have seen great successes by providing pro bono outpatient surgeries, including hernia repairs."

Saturday Surgery Day is a part of Champions for Health's flagship program, Project Access San Diego (PASD), providing pro bono specialty care to low-income, uninsured San Diego County residents. Without PASD, uninsured patients cannot afford the high cost of specialty medical procedures, cannot access medical care due to a lack of reliable transportation to appointments, are often deterred by their inability to speak the physician's language, and cannot afford prescription medications.

To qualify for Project Access San Diego, individuals must live in San Diego County, be low-income, ineligible for public health programs, and be referred by their primary care physician.

Note to Editor: *Patient/physician photos/interviews available upon request.*

About Champions for Health

Founded by the San Diego County Medical Society in 2005, the Champions for Health (CFH), formerly San Diego County Medical Society Foundation, addresses unmet healthcare needs of low-income San Diego County residents who are uninsured or underinsured. CFH focuses on increasing healthcare access, improving health education and prevention, and supporting the

future of medicine. Through its flagship program, *Project Access San Diego*, CFH has assisted over 4,500 patients to access specialty healthcare services. Healthcare partners, including over 625 specialty medical physicians, 25 hospitals and surgery centers, and numerous imaging, laboratory and ancillary providers, have provided patients with more than \$13 million in donated healthcare services. For more information about Champions for Health please visit www.ChampionsForHealth.org.

About Carlsbad Surgery Center

Carlsbad Surgery Center, an affiliate of Surgery One and Sutter Health, is an ambulatory surgery center for patients requiring elective surgery that does not require more than a 23 hour stay. The staff of professionals specializes in the care and treatment of patients undergoing out-patient surgery. Carlsbad Surgery Center is owned by local physicians who are committed to excellence of care, providing a better quality of life by returning patients to activities they enjoy on a daily basis. Carlsbad Surgery Center is committed to improving the quality of life for its patients, staff, and surgeons with a cutting edge environment and access to the best minimally invasive technology and customer care. For more information about Carlsbad Surgery Center please visit www.carlsbadsurgery.com.

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