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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2009 (Washington, MO) – The Board of Trustees of St. John’s Mercy Health System in St. Louis has announced that St. John’s Mercy Hospital will be revoking the medical privileges of the Patients First cardiologist team, effective Monday, November 16, 2009. In the letter received by Patients First from St. John’s Mercy Health System, it was clearly stated that the removal of the cardiology team from the staff was completely without cause and for no wrong-doing.

As before, the Patients First cardiology team, Dr. John Mohart, Dr. Brian Seeck, Dr. Michael Beardslee and Dr. Michael Wood, will be available in Washington 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide the quality care the community has come to depend on. The Patients First cardiology team will continue to admit all patients to SSM St. Clare Hospital in Fenton, MO. However, if a patient is experiencing signs of a heart attack and chooses to visit Saint John’s Mercy Hospital for care, Patients First advises them to ask that all medical records be sent to their Patients First cardiologist or, if a move is required, request a transfer to SSM St. Clare Hospital in Fenton, which is 15 minutes closer to Washington than the Saint John’s Mercy Medical Center in Saint Louis.

“We are deeply disappointed that St. John’s Mercy Health System has made the decision to remove us from the hospital staff,” said Dr. John Mohart, division chair of cardiology. “Given the importance of a detailed history to the diagnosis and treatment of patients, we believe that the Sisters of Mercy have chosen their own St. Louis business agenda over the best interests of patients in our community.”

Patients First has dedicated a section of the website, www.patientsfirsthc.com/communityconnections/cardiology, to answer any questions and give additional tips on how to deal with this change.

Patients First Health Care is a physician-owned, multi-specialty physician group. With 16 satellite offices in 5 counties, 65 practicing physicians and 500 total employees, Patients First Health Care is a proven leader in providing compassionate, quality, responsive patient care and serves more than 100,000 patients annually at the Washington and surrounding locations.

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