****

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 11, 2015

Contact: Debora Spano Matthew Alsante

UMass Memorial Health Care Executive Director, National Pancreas Foundation

508-793-4252 866-726-2737

401-258-3081 – cell malsante@pancreasfoundation.org

debora.spano@umassmemorial.org

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/umassmemorial>

**UMass Memorial Medical Center Earns National Pancreas Foundation Center Designation**

**WORCESTER, Mass.** – UMass Memorial Medical Center has been nationally recognized as a National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) Center. UMass Memorial Medical Center is the only hospital in Central Massachusetts to receive this prestigious designation. NPF Centers are awarded after a rigorous audit review to determine that an institutions focus is on multidisciplinary treatment of pancreatitis, treating the “whole patient” with a focus on the best possible outcomes and an improved quality of life.

“We are honored that UMass Memorial Medical Center has been designated as NPF Center for treatment of pancreatitis,” says Patrick Muldoon, president, UMass Memorial Medical Center. “Having the NPF Center designation will help distinguish UMass Memorial Medical Center as an institution whose focus is on providing the best and most innovative care possible.”

“The NPF Center designation will help us to better serve this important patient population,” says Matthew Alsante, executive director of the National Pancreas Foundation. “Once an institution receives this designation, we can recommend with confidence that patients will receive quality care at these designated Centers.”

An approved NPF Center has to meet the criteria that were developed by a task force made up of invited subject matter experts and patient advocates. The criteria includes having the required expert physician specialties such as gastroenterologists, pancreas surgeons, and interventional radiologists, along with more patient focused programs such as a pain management service, psychosocial support and more.

I am very proud of this achievement,” says Dominic Nompleggi, MD, PhD, chief of Gastroenterology at UMass Memorial Medical Center. “Obtaining the designation and establishing the clinical program are the work of Wahid Wassef, MD, MPH, Director of Endoscopy and the Pancreas Clinic..This award is certainly validation of Dr. Wassef’s effort and his entire team’s delivery of excellent patient care.”

**About UMass Memorial Health Care**

*UMass Memorial Health Care is the largest not-for-profit health care system in Central Massachusetts with more than 12,900 employees and 1,670 physicians, many of whom are members of UMass Memorial Medical Group. Our member hospitals and entities include Clinton Hospital, HealthAlliance Hospital, Marlborough Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center and Community Healthlink, our behavioral health agency. With our teaching and research partner, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, our extensive primary care network and our cancer, diabetes, heart and vascular, and musculoskeletal programs, UMass Memorial delivers safe, high-quality and compassionate care.*

*Call 855-UMASS-MD (855-862-7763) for all your health care needs. Visit umassmemorialhealthcare.org*

**About The National Pancreas Foundation**

Founded in 1997, the National Pancreas Foundation provides hope for those suffering from pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer through funding cutting-edge research, advocating for new and better therapies and providing support and education for patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals. The NPF is the only foundation dedicated to patients suffering from all forms of pancreas disease. For more information visit: [www.pancreasfoundation.org](http://www.pancreasfoundation.org/)

###