



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**MAYOR LEE ANNOUNCES SFGH RECEIVES COUNTRY'S FIRST
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM CERTIFICATION**

San Francisco, CA—Mayor Edwin M. Lee today announced that San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH), the City and County of San Francisco's hospital, has become the first in the country to gain certification for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and recognizes SFGH's clinical excellence and research leadership in the field of caring for brain injured patients. After a rigorous on-site survey on September 21st, the certification from The Joint Commission, an independent body that accredits and certifies hospitals nationwide, is the first one bestowed on an acute care hospital for work in this area. SFGH's program now will serve as a model for other hospitals that seek the new Joint Commission certification.

"I have seen for myself the great work that San Francisco General Hospital's doctors, nurses, administrators and staff do for brain injured patients," said Mayor Lee. "They have been on all of our minds this year especially as we have followed the progress of Bryan Stow, Ryan White, Mark McGovern and others whose stories have captured the public's attention."

"In achieving The Joint Commission certification, San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients with Traumatic Brain Injury," said The Joint Commission Executive Director for Disease-Specific Care Certification Jean Range, MS, RN, CPHQ. "Certification is a voluntary process and I commend SFGH for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

"I truly believe this new certification effort by The Joint Commission can lead to improved care for traumatic brain injured patients across the United States," said SFGH Chief of Neurosurgery and leader of its interdisciplinary TBI team Dr. Geoff Manley.

SFGH is internationally recognized for its expertise in TBI and spinal cord injury. Each year, SFGH neurotrauma specialists see more than 1,200 patients with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries and perform nearly 300 neurosurgical operations. With an average daily census of 30 patients, the neurosurgical service at SFGH also actively manages the critical care of these patients and provides advanced neurotrauma care, including brain tissue oxygen monitoring, cerebral blood flow monitoring, jugular venous saturation monitoring and continuous EEG.

"It is gratifying that our commitment to traumatic brain injury patients from all walks of life has been recognized as meeting the highest national standards," said SFGH CEO Sue Currin. "We are proud to serve our city and region in this critical field of patient care."

SFGH treats approximately 55,000 patients annually in its emergency room, including about 4,000 trauma patients, some of whom suffer brain injury.

“It is a testament to the hard work of the General’s team that their professionalism, compassion, perseverance and patient advocacy has been acknowledged and will set an example for the nation,” said San Francisco Director of Public Health Barbara Garcia.

About San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH)

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center is the sole provider of trauma and psychiatric emergency services for the City and County of San Francisco. A comprehensive medical center, SFGH serves some 100,000 patients per year and provides 20 percent of the city’s inpatient care. In 2011, SFGH became the first acute care hospital in the country to be certified for Traumatic Brain Injury. As San Francisco’s public hospital, SFGH’s mission is to provide quality health care and trauma services with compassion and respect to patients that include the City’s most vulnerable.

The General is also one of the nation’s top tertiary academic medical centers, partnering with the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine on clinical training and research. All SFGH physicians are UCSF faculty and that close affiliation allows for on-site research on brain injury to be applied directly to patients, providing them with cutting-edge techniques while contributing to the body of knowledge that moves the field forward.

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