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## **St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Expands HIV-Focused Center for Comprehensive Care to Manhattan's West Village**

*Patients and clinical staff from former St. Vincent's HIV program find a new medical home as part of renowned Center's new site in the West Village*

New York, NY – August 13, 2010 - The Center for Comprehensive Care (CCC), the nationally renowned HIV program of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, has assumed clinical responsibility for a major portion of the HIV program of the former St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center, ensuring continuity of care for over twelve hundred patients who had feared the closing of St. Vincent's would leave them without critical services.

Instead, patients will find the same health care providers in the same location where they had received services prior to St. Vincent's closure. The CCC's new West Village Division is located in the building that housed St. Vincent's clinic, simplifying the transition for patients. A large contingent of staff, who had managed approximately half the patient population of the closed clinic, joined the clinical team of the CCC, which also took over operation of the popular outpatient pharmacy at the facility at 36 7th Avenue, where many St. Vincent's patients secured their medications. Already the largest HIV/AIDS Center in New York State, the CCC's expansion will result in more than 5,000 individuals and families receiving services, and outpatient visits of over 40,000 annually.

The new West Village Division offers the full spectrum of services available to patients at CCC's other locations: the Samuels Clinic at Roosevelt Hospital in midtown Manhattan and its Morningside Clinic at St. Luke's Hospital in Harlem. "The patient comes first with us, and that means making things as easy and convenient for them as possible. They see their physician, social worker, dentist, gynecologist, cardiologist, therapist, whomever they need to see, at the same site. Our team are all HIV specialists, and they coordinate the care for each and every patient," said Victoria Sharp, MD, Director of the CCC. "It is a model of care that has been replicated in clinics across the country and in other countries around the world. We are delighted to offer these same services to the residents of lower Manhattan."

With the addition of the West Village Division, the CCC's impressive range of patient services will be supplemented by an expanded clinical education program. CCC Associate Medical Director Antonio Urbina, who served as medical director of HIV education and training at St. Vincent's, is leading the team at the new site, and will be overseeing an enhanced program of AIDS education and training for clinicians. "St. Vincent's closure was traumatic, but fortunately both my colleagues and our patients have found a home that shares our values and our commitment to the community as well as to clinical education. We're also thrilled that our patients, many of whom live beyond the Village, will have two great sites for acute care, if and when they should need admission." Outpatient services at the West Village Division are supplemented by the CCC's inpatient team of physicians, either at St. Luke's or at Roosevelt Hospitals. The clinical team of the CCC is also available on-call after hours, with emergency care available at the Roosevelt or St. Luke's Emergency Departments.

### **About The Center For Comprehensive Care at St. Luke's – Roosevelt Hospital Center**

The Center for Comprehensive Care (CCC) is changing how people manage and live with HIV and other chronic diseases. The CCC offers a complete range of services at each of our three locations, ensuring patients receive holistic care – "when you treat the whole patient, you heal the whole patient." All of the CCC's staff are HIV specialists and its our doors are open to anyone. Patients have access to the full range of medical and support services at each location, including including dental care, behavioral health as well as on-site pharmacy services. For over thirteen years the CCC has provided a diverse population, including some of the most marginalized communities in New York City, with state of the art care in a warm and welcoming environment. Now operating in three locations - at St. Luke's and Roosevelt hospitals and in the West Vilage, the CCC provides treatment, care and support to over 4,500 individuals and families, and is the largest AIDS center in New York State. To learn more about the CCC and the services at the West Village Division, visit us at [www.centerforcare.org](http://www.centerforcare.org).