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Realistic Newborn Simulation Manikin Will Provide Vital Training at French Hospital Medical Center

Manikin SimNewB® was purchased through donation and joins both SimMan Essential and a Full Body Pregnancy Simulator to complete the family unit

SAN LUIS OBISPO – March 11, 2015 – French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC), which along with Arroyo Grande Community Hospital (AGCH) and Marian Regional Medical Center (MRMC), are Dignity Health Central Coast hospitals, is now home to a SimNewB® – a realistic, newborn patient simulator. Typically found only at educational medical facilities and institutions, such patient simulators offer active training and education for our hospital employees.

The acquisition of the SimNewB® was made possible by a generous donation from James Flanagan, a former FHMC patient. Flanagan has worked with FHMC medical personnel to identify this specific program as a means of providing leading-edge technology to our San Luis Obispo campus. Flanagan has also donated SimMan Essential and a Full Body Pregnancy Simulator to FHMC; both are capable of replicating clinical scenarios for training.

The SimNewB® provides the opportunity for hospital staff to experience, react to, and treat realistic, pre-programmed patient cases. The realistic infant simulates lung and heart functions as well replicates the vocal cues of a newborn. “With the addition of this newborn simulator, we are able to provide critical hands-on training which is invaluable to our staff,” says Alan Iftiniuk, FHMC President and CEO. “We are proud to offer this exceptional teaching tool.”

Like its sister hospital, the simulation lab at Marian Regional Medical Center also contains three manikin simulators used for physical assessments in teaching situations. The Full Body Pregnancy Simulator, iStan manikin, and the SimNewB® all allow for evaluation during realistic clinical scenarios.

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In the future, the FHMC SimNewB® will be housed in a dedicated classroom in the Health Education and Technology Pavilion, a new building planned as part of the renovation and expansion project currently underway at FHMC. The FHMC Foundation continues to raise funds from the community for the Pavilion, which will be a unique community resource, designed to host community health educational classes and provide advanced technological training opportunities for physicians, nurses, and ancillary healthcare providers.

For more information on SimNewB®, FHMC, or for a media demonstration of SimNewB®, please contact Sara San Juan at 805.739.3574. For additional information regarding the FHMC Foundation, the Health Education and Technology Pavilion, or to make a donation to FHMC Foundation, call 805-542-6496 or visit www.supportfrenchhospital.org.

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About French Hospital Medical Center

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, is rated among the top hospitals in the nation for cardiac, orthopedic and GI services. The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center provides the latest innovative cardiac and imaging technology. The hospital is home to the unique Hearst Cancer Resource Center offering free education, resources and support to cancer patients and their families. French is a Dignity Health Central Coast hospital which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in Arroyo Grande, CA, Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, CA, St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, CA and St. John's Pleasant Valley in Camarillo, CA. Dignity Health Central Coast is an integrated network of top quality hospitals, physicians from the most prestigious medical schools, and comprehensive outpatient services including primary care offices, premier ambulatory surgery centers, technologically-advanced laboratories and imaging centers and a full service home health agency; all recognized for quality, safety and service. Each hospital is supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to help meet the growing health care needs of our communities. To learn more go to www.frenchmedicalcenter.org.