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**Springhill Medical Center Foundation
Announces Initiative to Improve Patient Outcomes
Through Donation of Point of Care Testing Analyzer**

The i-STAT® Analyzer Provides Real-Time Results, Expedites Diagnosis and Treatment

Springhill, Louisiana, December 27, 2007: Springhill Medical Center announced Springhill Medical Center Foundations purchase and donation of a \$9,000 i-STAT hand-held analyzer to help improve patient outcomes by providing lab-quality test results within minutes. Designed to expedite patient diagnosis and treatment, i-STAT analyzer performs a comprehensive panel of critical tests at the patient's bedside using two or three drops of blood. Springhill Medical Center is using this Point of Care testing (POCT) device in all patient care areas including, ICU and ER where treatment decisions rely on fast test results.

The device's automated technology coupled with the whole-blood application at the patient site eliminates the time delays and potential for medical errors caused by blood sample transport to, and processing at a central laboratory. For patients, this translates to early and accurate diagnosis and treatment, and ultimately, improved outcomes.

"The i-STAT analyzer delivers lab-accurate testing for blood gases, electrolytes, chemistries, coagulation, hematology, glucose and cardiac markers in minutes and will primarily be used by the Respiratory Department to perform blood gas testing," said Dr. Gary Torrence, Internist. "By obtaining these critical results rapidly, we can quickly assess and monitor a patient's status and better manage their care."

Guidelines issued by The National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry indicate that the appropriate use of Point of Care testing (POCT) devices such as i-STAT analyzers can provide faster results and accelerate treatment decisions. Medical experts agree that patients who are treated quickly are significantly more likely to have easier and faster recoveries, and shorter overall hospital stays. The resulting potential for reduced patient treatment costs is an additional benefit of POCT. The advantages of i-STAT analyzers are perhaps most evident in emergency and critical care situations where patient outcomes hinge on quick turnaround times (TAT). A prime example is: **Arterial Blood**

Gases (ABG) - Arterial blood gas levels can signal life-threatening changes for patients in the ICU and ED, and for adult and neonatal patients undergoing cardiac surgery. According to the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (NACB), rapid TAT of ABG has been shown to improve patient outcomes in all of these clinical applications.

The i-STAT analyzer is manufactured by Abbott Point of Care, East Windsor, NJ, and uses self-contained test cartridges to analyze blood samples. The i-STAT analyzer is currently used in over 1,800 hospitals in America today where fast test results are critical for better patient care. The platform finds utility in emergency departments, critical care units, surgical suites, neonatal intensive care units and clinics. More information about the i-STAT analyzer can be found at www.abbottpointofcare.com.

Springhill Medical Center's Foundation was founded in 2003 for the purpose of providing people an avenue to help provide the life saving equipment that is needed day-to-day to provide a high quality of healthcare with the benefit of receiving a tax deduction for their generous gift.

If you would like to donate to the very worthy foundation you may do so by calling Barbara Stroud or Flo Sessions at 318-539-1001, by check or cash or by going to the hospital's web site for a secure on-line donation at

<https://smc-sec.smccare.com/smchf/>



Veronica Scott, RRT, Director of Respiratory explains the uses of the i-STAT analyzer to members of the SMC Foundation Board. Pictured left to right: Marilyn Mow, Dir of Quality, John Rainey, CEO, Anthony Manuel, Eloise Bucher, E.L. Edwards, Veronica Scott, and Candace Elmore.