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For Immediate Release

Twin Cities hospitals welcome Macedonia hospital administrators to get a close look at our systems

St. Paul, Minn., March 13, 2008 – A team of hospital administrators from the young country of Macedonia are visiting Regions Hospital, Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center as part of a week-long work study program in hospital management where they will observe how U.S. hospitals are managed.

Macedonia was formed out of the former Yugoslavia and is a nation of two million residents. Its health care and hospital system is learning to operate as an independent system no longer tied to the former centralized Soviet government structure. Three leadership teams will shadow leaders of the three participating hospitals next week, March 17-21, to see first-hand how hospitals deal with the challenges of escalating costs of new technologies, improving quality and patient safety, operating health care human resources systems, and implementing and managing electronic health record systems.

“Minnesota hospitals are at the forefront of successfully integrating technology into operations for the benefit of the patient, and overall hospital management, so it is appropriate to give these physician-managers a chance to learn from our hospital leaders and ask questions,” said James A. Rice, principal with Integrated Healthcare Strategies, a company that specializes in hospital leadership development and performance.

The Minnesota hospital program was developed in collaboration with the CEOs of the three hospitals involved: Lynn Abrahamsen of Hennepin County Medical Center, Jeff Peterson of Abbott Northwestern and Brock Nelson of Regions, to provide a practical experience for these physician-managers.

The goal of the weeklong program is for the Macedonian hospital participants to leave Minnesota with enhanced knowledge and skills for entrepreneurial behavior and the practical know-how to cost-effectively operate the Macedonia hospitals during its economic and political transition.

To learn more about the program, or the specific topics to be covered, contact Christine Hill at 612-873-5719, David Kanihan at 612-262-4986 or Jennifer Kovacich at 651-629-0411.

ABBOTT NORTHWESTERN HOSPITAL

Minneapolis-based Abbott Northwestern Hospital is part of [Allina Hospitals & Clinics](#), a non-profit network of hospitals, clinics and other health care services. Abbott Northwestern is found online at www.abbottnorthwestern.com.

HENNEPIN COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

Hennepin County Medical Center is a nationally recognized Level I Trauma Center with the largest emergency department in Minnesota. The comprehensive academic medical center and public teaching hospital includes a 424-bed acute care hospital and primary care and specialty clinics located in downtown Minneapolis, and four primary care clinics in Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County.

For the eleventh year in a row, Hennepin County Medical Center is listed in the U.S. News & World Report rankings of the top U.S. Hospitals in its annual "America's Best Hospitals" report.

REGIONS HOSPITAL

Regions Hospital is a Level I Trauma Center and teaching hospital serving Minnesota and western Wisconsin for more than 130 years. Regions is a private, non-profit hospital providing outstanding care in women's health, heart, cancer, surgery, orthopaedics, neurosciences, burn, emergency care and more. Regions is part of the HealthPartners family of care. Additional information is available at regionshospital.com.

INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE STRATEGIES

Integrated Healthcare Strategies provides not-for-profit healthcare organizations with direct access to the most comprehensive array of healthcare-specific services available, delivered by professionals from the industry who understand the rigors of running a healthcare organization – from the lunchroom to the Board Room. Their client list is a "who's who" of healthcare organizations including over 1200 major healthcare providers, 1,800 hospitals and 500 physician groups.

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