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**Cincinnati Aligning Forces for Quality
Appoints New Chair for Quality Improvement Work**
Groundbreaking effort aims to improve health outcomes

CINCINNATI – March 6, 2009 – Stephen R. Grossbart, PhD, Corporate Quality Officer at Catholic Healthcare Partners, Cincinnati, OH, has been appointed to chair the Quality Improvement Committee for Cincinnati Aligning Forces for Quality, an initiative of the Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, which is partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve health care quality in the Tristate. Grossbart will help lead AF4Q initiatives assisting primary care physicians to deliver evidenced-based care for those with diabetes and other chronic illnesses. He will also assist AF4Q's work with local hospitals to improve health disparities. Grossbart will serve in a voluntary capacity.

Cincinnati AF4Q is an unprecedented effort to bring together those who give care, get care and pay for care in a united push to improve quality across Greater Cincinnati. "We know that patients don't receive evidenced-based care at all times, and we also know that disparities exist in the outcomes of care for different groups," said Craig Brammer, AF4Q director. "AF4Q is a groundbreaking attempt to align the forces that impact these differences and then to improve results."

Physicians need better data and tools to assess care outcomes and more training on how to implement processes that lead to better outcomes, he said. Hospitals will be working together to examine health disparities and use data to drive care improvements. "Dr. Grossbart's considerable expertise in managing quality improvement throughout health care systems will be invaluable to our effort," Brammer said.

Grossbart oversees quality initiatives for Catholic Healthcare Partners' nine regional service areas in four states, which include 32 acute care hospitals, 14 long-term care facilities, home health agencies, hospice programs, outreach services, medical groups, wellness centers and other organizations that operate diversified health care activities. His team, consisting of 22 clinicians, process improvement engineers, and health services researchers, focuses on developing and leading Catholic Healthcare Partners' system-wide efforts for clinical quality, medication and patient safety, process redesign, performance measurement, nursing excellence, chronic & palliative care, and home care services.

Grossbart, who holds a PhD in history from University of Michigan, is a frequent presenter at professional health care industry meetings. Before joining Catholic Healthcare Partners, he was director of Clinical Analytics at Premier, Inc. in Charlotte, NC, and before that led the analytical teams at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City.

Greater Cincinnati is one of 14 communities selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest health care philanthropy, to participate in AF4Q.

Grossbart, 50, resides in Montgomery with his wife, Patricia and two daughters.

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