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ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL LAUNCHES NATION'S FIRST OPERATING ROOM OF ITS KIND

*First High-Definition, Digitally-Integrated Operating Room with
DVI Fiber Integration*

SANTA ANA, CA. - March 15, 2006 - St. Joseph Hospital surgeons will now perform high-definition digital surgery and telesurgery for minimally invasive procedures thanks to new technology in their new i-Suite™ operating rooms. The new rooms are the first high-definition, digitally-integrated operating rooms with DVI fiber integration in the nation.

The i-Suite™ rooms, designed by Stryker Corporation, are operating rooms of the future. The key components are :

- SwitchPoint Digital INFINITY™ -- a central control system that provides surgeons with access and control of critical devices
- Networked Digital Documentation
- Wide-Scale Telemedicine Capabilities
- Fully-integrated High-definition Camera System -- suspended with state-of-the-art surgical ceiling mounted equipment booms, lights and flat panel arms.

With the new technology, surgeons have direct control over all the medical equipment via his/her

own voice. They can activate equipment, document findings with pictures and/or motion video, and dictate notes directly to the hospital network. These features improve the efficiency of the operative team and reduce the operation time, thereby shortening the period that the patient must remain under anesthesia.

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"These 'integrated' operating rooms allow us to advance our mission of compassionate care," explained Joanne Stermer, RN , Executive Director of Surgical Services at St. Joseph Hospital. The new i-Suite™ operating rooms not only offer advanced medical technology, but they also allow St. Joseph Hospital to increase the productivity of their staff, improve procedural efficiency, and reduce overall operative costs. These benefits are passed on directly to the patient.

The new operating rooms are the centerpiece for St. Joseph Hospital's role as a technology leader in the healthcare field. Live footage of operations in the new rooms will be viewable through secure computer networks from conference rooms, other hospital campuses, and auditoriums for educational purposes.

Two-way video and audio connections will allow medical residents and other centers to interact with the operating surgeon, as well as observe a variety of camera views and patient information from off- and on-site locations. With the i-Suite™ operating rooms, residents can observe both inside and outside of the patient at the same time, which will greatly improve St. Joseph Hospital's ability to teach the next generation of talented surgeons.

About St. Joseph Hospital

For 75 years, they have been dedicated to continually improving the health and quality of life of the people in the communities they serve. Situated conveniently in central Orange County, St. Joseph Hospital is a 412-bed, not-for-profit, acute care facility that provides comprehensive care to the County of Orange and surrounding areas in the state of California. St. Joseph Hospital is a values-based Catholic healthcare provider with a tradition of and commitment to excellence based on the vision of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The hospital's strong belief in the intrinsic dignity of each person commits it to be a just employer, to provide healthcare for the whole person, body, mind and spirit, and to collaborate with physicians and other healthcare providers to increase access to quality healthcare. St. Joseph Hospital can be reached at 714 771-8075 or by visiting www.sjo.org.

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