Center for Bariatric Surgery at Miriam Marks One-Year Anniversary

Members of the Center for Bariatric Surgery at The Miriam Hospital recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Center with some of their patients. At far left is Siva Vithiananthan, MD; and at far right is G. Dean Roye, MD. Arthur Sampson, president of The Miriam Hospital, is next to Dr. Roye. Kellie Armstrong, RN, Bariatric Surgery Program coordinator, is next to Dr. Vithiananthan.

PROVIDENCE – The Center for Bariatric Surgery at The Miriam Hospital – a combined program that unites nationally recognized bariatric surgeons and staff from Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals into a single program on one campus – recently celebrated its one-year anniversary.

The Miriam Hospital has been offering weight loss surgery since 2007, before the program united with the bariatric surgery program at Rhode Island Hospital. The combined Center performed 315 total bariatric-related cases in its first year and continues to offer a variety of widely attended seminars and support groups for both patients and their families.

It provides different minimally invasive, or laparoscopic, bariatric surgical techniques, including:

- laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass
- gastric banding
- laparoscopic gastric sleeve resection
- bilio-pancreatic duodenal switch surgery procedures

The Center also includes a 20-bed surgical intensive care unit. A bariatric surgeon is also available around-the-clock for any emergencies or consults.

Many former bariatric patients attended a special anniversary reception, where they had the opportunity to thank and celebrate with the surgeons, physicians, nurses, dietitians and other team members who cared for them both before and long after their surgeries.

LIFESPAN

Siva Vithiananthan, MD

"Our goal is not just to help people lose weight, but we want to change their lives by giving them the tools they need to lead a healthier lifestyle," said **SIVA VITHIANANTHAN, MD**, chief of minimally invasive and bariatric surgery at The Miriam Hospital and director of the Center for Bariatric Surgery. "It is incredibly rewarding to hear from former patients who tell us how they are now off of their blood pressure medication or are running half marathons and accomplishing other feats they never thought were possible before coming to us for bariatric surgery."

"Hearing from patients whose lives have literally been transformed by our surgeons and the entire bariatric care team was both a moving experience and a sober reminder of the toll the obesity epidemic continues to have here in Rhode Island," said **ARTHUR J. SAMPSON**, president of The Miriam Hospital. ❖

Both Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals have been recognized as American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence®. The designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of excellence in providing superior and comprehensive bariatric surgery care. The Miriam also has been designated a Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island.