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North Shore-LIJ Recruits Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer

JenniferH Mieres, MD, to also serve as medical director of health system's corporate university

LAKE SUCCESS, NY – The North Shore-LIJ Health System today announced the appointment of Jennifer H Mieres, MD, as chief diversity and inclusion officer, and medical director of the health system's corporate university – the Center for Learning and Innovation in Lake Success.

Dr. Mieres will provide strategic vision and leadership on diversity and inclusion activities for the health system's 15 hospitals and other facilities, as well as the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine. She will also serve as North Shore-LIJ's liaison for diversity initiatives to membership organizations, government entities and other healthcare organizations.

Dr. Mieres will continue her clinical activities as a clinical nuclear cardiologist on the faculty of the North Shore-LIJ Health System. Dr. Mieres was recruited from the New York University Langone Medical Center, where she served as director of nuclear cardiology, a position she held previously at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY.

“Jennifer Mieres is a dynamic individual who has been on the front lines of healthcare for many years, so she recognizes the ever-changing demographics in the New York metropolitan area and the need for our workforce, particularly our caregivers, to be representative of the communities and patients they serve,” said Lawrence Smith, MD, the health system's chief medical officer and dean of the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine. “As Long Island's largest employer and ninth-largest in New York City, North Shore-LIJ is an extremely diverse organization, but with a workforce of more than 42,000, it's important that we have a focused effort in place to ensure that we are culturally sensitive and inclusionary in all respects, particularly with a new medical school opening in August 2011.”

In her role as medical director for North Shore-LIJ's Center for Learning and Innovation, Dr. Mieres is responsible for developing programs in diversity, cultural competency and healthcare literacy for physicians, nurses and allied health care professionals throughout the health system. She will also work to develop an Allied Health Care community-based task force in partnership with the North Shore-LIJ Health System to identify, support and provide mentoring for under-represented, culturally diverse members of the community who are interested in pursuing careers in healthcare.

“I am truly thrilled to be embarking on this new phase of my professional journey,” Dr. Mieres said. “My new position enables me to continue to be a patient advocate and combine my passion for preventing and treating heart disease while

simultaneously developing programs in diversity, cultural competency and health literacy."

Dr. Mieres is the co- author of the 2008 critically-acclaimed book, *Heart Smart for Black Women and Latinas: A Five-Week Program for Living a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle* (St. Martin's Press www.heartsmartwomenbook.com). African-Americans and Hispanic women have as much as a 69 percent higher risk of heart disease than Caucasian women due in part to their higher incidence of risk factors, including high blood pressure, obesity, physical inactivity, diabetes and more.

An active volunteer for the American Heart Association (AHA), Dr. Mieres will continue working with the organization. She will also continue as a national spokesperson for the AHA's *Go Red for Women* movement. This month, she became chair of the national AHA's Professional Education committee.

Dr. Mieres is the immediate past president of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and was the first female president of the organization. She will continue to be an active board member and serve on the Executive Council of the organization.

About North Shore-LIJ Health System

The nation's second-largest, non-profit, secular healthcare system, the North Shore-LIJ Health System cares for people of all ages throughout Long Island, Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island – a service area encompassing more than seven million people. The winner of the National Quality Forum's 2010 National Quality Healthcare Award, the North Shore-LIJ Health System consists of 15 hospitals, 17 long-term care facilities, The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, three trauma centers, five home health agencies, a hospice network and dozens of outpatient centers. In addition, North Shore-LIJ is partnering with Hofstra University to develop a new medical school, which will admit its first class in 2011. North Shore-LIJ's owned facilities house about 5,600 beds, employ more than 10,000 nurses and have affiliations with more than 9,000 physicians. Its workforce of about 42,000 is the largest on Long Island and the ninth largest in New York City. For more information, go to www.northshorelij.com.