



St. Mary's Medical Center

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St. Mary's Surgeon Represents United States on Expert Panel for Wound Care

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. Feb. 5, 2009 – Dr. Charles K. Lee, Director of the San Francisco Wound Care and Reconstructive Surgery Center, located at St. Mary's Medical Center, will represent the United States at an international conference on Negative Wound Pressure Therapy (NPWT). NPWT has revolutionized the world of wound management and reconstructive surgery for the past ten years and has been applied on millions of patients worldwide to successfully treat wounds of all types.

"Serving on this panel is a great honor and responsibility. Our challenge is to bring a together a global consensus on the benefits and limitations of NPWT and to further set guidelines on its use in every type of clinical scenario, ranging from medianstinitis to pressure ulcers." said Dr. Charles K. Lee, Medical Director of Microsurgery and of the San Francisco Wound Care and Reconstructive Surgery Center.

The NPWT expert panel consists of 22 leading, independent physicians from many clinical specialties that use NPWT for patient treatment. The panel will convene in Hamburg, Germany and panelists will attend workshops on wounds. At the end of the workshop, the panel will vote on treatments to identify best practices for wound care. The panel recommendations will be posted on the panel website, www.npwtexperts.com on February 8, 2010.

Dr. Lee is an expert plastic and reconstructive surgeon, treating patients who suffer from chronic and acute wounds. He and his staff use a collaborative, multi-specialty approach to their wound care treatment and the center uses the latest most advanced wound dressing and surgical techniques to fully heal any type of wound. Dr. Lee has been using NPWT for the past 12 years to treat more than a thousand patients successfully.

"NPWT can be the primary treatment in some cases of wounds, but it is mainly an adjunct in my practice. The most important thing to know about NPWT is when to recognize when NPWT is *not* working and needs an expert evaluation to make a new determination about further options in treatment. A wound should be seriously assessed every two weeks to determine if NPWT is working, has stopped, or needs a higher level of reconstructive treatment," says Dr. Lee.

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NPWT is a wound healing technique used to treat both acute and chronic wounds. A vacuum source is used to create sub-atmospheric pressure in conjunction with wound filler (foam or gauze) in the local wound environment to remove fluid and enhance wound healing. It is a simple, but ingenious way to advance wound healing while also improving patient comfort and outcomes.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO WOUND CARE AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY CENTER

The San Francisco Wound Care and Reconstructive Surgery Center is dedicated to one goal – providing patients top-notch treatment of all wounds, including: diabetic and venous ulcers, chronic wounds, lymphedema, acute trauma and osteomyelitis. The well-trained multidisciplinary staff includes three reconstructive plastic surgeons who are experts in wound care and reconstructive surgery as well as general and vascular surgeons, endocrinologists, infectious disease specialists, a podiatrist and a wound care nurse practitioner. The comprehensive set-up of the clinic offers patients continuity of care all in one location.

ABOUT ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER:

St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC), a member of Catholic Healthcare West, has cared for the people of the San Francisco Bay Area since 1857. Today, it is one of the largest not-for-profit, community-based healthcare providers in Northern California. Home to the nation's first digital cardiac catheterization laboratory, pioneering spine and total joint surgery center and a full-range of inpatient and outpatient medical services, SMMC physicians are considered experts in their field. With more than 550 physicians, 1,100 employees and 400 patient beds, St. Mary's is committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus, and to providing high-quality, affordable healthcare to the community we serve. For more information, please call 415-668-1000 or visit www.stmarysmedicalcenter.org

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