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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unity Health System Receives Grant for Stroke Care

*Greater Rochester Health Foundation Awards Unity \$558,000
to improve risk factor for stroke management.*

Rochester, N.Y. (October 2, 2013) — Unity Health System will implement a program aimed at improving secondary prevention in patients presenting to Unity with stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA), with funding from Greater Rochester Health Foundation (Health Foundation).

The Health Foundation awarded a three-year grant of up to \$558,000 to Unity to support secondary prevention for patients with stroke, the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, and a leading cause of serious, long-term adult disability.

“Greater Rochester Health Foundation is pleased to support this important community outreach effort,” said John Urban, President and CEO of the Health Foundation. “Providing enhanced patient and family education about stroke care will make a significant improvement in the quality of lives of the members of the Rochester community.”

Monroe County has one of the highest age-adjusted stroke admission rates in New York State. Approximately 25% of all strokes are recurrent. Research shows that modification of identified risk factors reduces the incidence of stroke as well as the incidence of other cardiovascular disease, adherence to treatment if variable at best.

Unity’s stroke prevention program will include risk-factor assessment and treatment, enhanced patient and family education, early and ongoing post-hospital follow up and tight care coordination. The goal of the program is to reduce recurrent stroke, myocardial infarction, and hospital readmissions by improving management of hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, obesity, smoking cessation, and cardioembolic stroke.

“This grant allows us the opportunity to utilize our clinical expertise to improve the health of our patients,” said Mary Dombovy, M.D., Vice President of Unity Neurosciences. “The implementation of this program will also act to significantly reduce the costs of ongoing health care by reducing hospital readmissions.”

Unity Hospital is a designated Stroke Center by the New York State Department of Health, and has leading programs to treat and rehabilitate stroke patients. This includes Unity's Acute Rehabilitation and Brain Injury program, the largest of its kind in the Finger Lakes region. The program is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities for acute stroke, pediatric, and brain injury rehabilitation. Unity also earned a Get With The Guidelines Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award for stroke care from the American Heart Association (AHA)/American Stroke Association (ASA).

To learn more about Unity's Stroke Center, visit http://www.unityhealth.org/hospital/hospital_stroke.aspx.

About Unity

At Unity Health System you'll find the friendliest and most compassionate people dedicated to providing the best possible health care experience. We have over 70 locations in Rochester and Monroe County, including Unity Hospital, located on the Unity Park Ridge Health Care Campus in the town of Greece and the Unity St. Mary's Campus in Rochester. Key programs include Orthopaedics, Women's Service, Behavioral Health, Neurosciences, and Aging and Community Services. The Village at Unity is Unity's senior living community that offers a full continuum of housing programs including independent, enriched living, and a memory care community. ACM Medical Laboratory is a world leader of patient and clinical trials testing, with locations in western New York, York, England, and India, and lab partnerships across the globe. Our shared commitment to delivering health care the way it should be is reflected in our overall employee and patient satisfaction ratings and quality outcomes. For more information, visit www.unityhealth.org.

About Greater Rochester Health Foundation

Greater Rochester Health Foundation's mission is to improve the health status of all residents of the Greater Rochester community including people whose unique health care needs have not been met because of race, ethnicity or income. The Health Foundation plays an important role in improving the health of the community by taking a strategic approach to investing in health initiatives that will achieve measurable impact. The Health Foundation considers requests for funding in the areas of: health care delivery, neighborhood health status improvement and prevention.

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