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General interest press release

Celebrating the past, looking to the future: Vancouver General Hospital marks 15 years of ER Radiology program and installation of latest Siemens CT technology

Oakville, ON., December 15, 2015

ER Radiology program was first in Canada pioneered by Dr. Savvas Nicolaou
Siemens SOMATOM Force CT offers low-dose rapid-scanning for ER trauma patients

Siemens Canada congratulates Vancouver Coastal Health and Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) on reaching a milestone 15th year of its Emergency Radiology Program. While many emergency departments in major Canadian centres now have radiology programs, this was not the norm 15 years ago when Dr. Savvas Nicolaou started the ER Radiology Program at VGH. Dr. Nicolaou pioneered the use of rapid imaging to assist ER Physicians in obtaining accurate results and better treatments for trauma and ER patients. Knowing that trauma is the leading cause of death of Canadians under the age of 25, Dr. Nicolaou endeavored to provide unique solutions to save these young people's lives and spare them the radiation burdens that would normally be associated with trauma imaging.

The celebration of the milestone comes at a time when VGH is also looking to the future and further enhancing patient care with the successful installation of the latest technology Siemens SOMATOM Force CT (Computed Tomography) Scanner. The Force represents low-dose, highly accurate CT technology that can provide better images with less radiation. Dr. Nicolaou and the ER Radiology team will utilize the ultra low-dose CT and advanced acute care to help diagnosis chest pain, polytrauma and acute stroke, contributing to better patient outcomes.

Siemens Healthcare has been a trusted CT technology partner to VGH for more than a decade. In 2005 Dr. Nicolaou – an early advocate for lower-dose imaging – was instrumental in the installation of Canada's first dual-source CT scanner (a Siemens SOMATOM Dual Source CT) by securing a \$1.5 M private donation for the equipment from the Diamond Family with support from the Vancouver General Hospital Foundation.

In 2013 under Dr. Nicolaou's leadership, VGH's ER Radiology Program became the first in Canada to provide 24/7 radiological services, making it a model for other institutions to offer around-the-clock in-house services.

Today Vancouver General Hospital remains a respected reference site for CT technology with physicians from major US trauma centres visiting frequently.

QUOTES:

"We feel the greatest benefit of our collaboration with Siemens and our ER Radiology team is improving patient outcomes by using the most innovative imaging technologies available in the acute care setting, where every second counts."

– **Dr. Savvas Nicolaou, Director of Emergency and Trauma Radiology, Vancouver General Hospital**

"We consider it a great privilege to be a partner in better health with Vancouver General Hospital and we congratulate them and Dr. Nicolaou on fifteen years of outstanding innovation in patient care. Our imaging technologies are developed to deliver the most efficient and accurate results to physicians, and this is especially vital in the diagnosis of trauma patients."

– **Jim Graziadei, Managing Director, Siemens Healthcare Canada**

About Siemens Canada

For more than 100 years the innovative ideas from Siemens have helped make Canada a better place. From the Atlantic to Pacific oceans, more than 4,500 employees in Canada work together to provide answers that last in the fields of electrification, automation and digitalization. Since it was federally chartered in 1912, Siemens has stood for innovation, quality, reliability and internationality. Sales for Siemens Canada in fiscal 2014 (ended September 30), were \$2.7 billion CAD. The company has 39 offices and 12 manufacturing/assembly facilities across Canada.

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