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**SOUTH FLORIDA'S HIGHEST RATED CARDIAC SURGERY TEAM
JOINS MOUNT SINAI'S NATIONALLY RENOWNED
CARDIOVASCULAR CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

MIAMI BEACH, FL -- Mount Sinai Medical Center, the leader in cardiovascular services in South Florida for more than 40 years, welcomes Joseph Lamelas, M.D. as the hospital's new chief of cardiac surgery. The cardiac surgery program at Mount Sinai is the largest and most renowned in the region, providing unsurpassed excellence in patient care, research and fellowship training. An expert in the most advanced forms of minimally invasive cardiac and thoracic surgery, Dr. Lamelas will solidify Mount Sinai's standing as a national center of excellence in cardiac surgery. Dr. Lamelas, who becomes chief effective December 1, is board certified in cardiac and thoracic surgery, as well as surgical critical care, and has performed more than 7,000 open-heart procedures in his career. He trains surgeons across the United States and the world in advanced and innovative surgical techniques. At age 48, Dr. Lamelas has a bright future as he has already pioneered widely used techniques in minimally invasive valve surgery and lectures nationally and internationally to share his outstanding clinical knowledge.

"The Board of Mount Sinai Medical Center is committed to recruiting the best and brightest physicians to provide our patients with exceptional care," said Michael M. Adler, Chairman of Mount Sinai Medical Center. "We welcome the experience, vision and leadership Dr. Lamelas brings to our program," said Steven D. Sonenreich, President and CEO of Mount Sinai Medical Center. "After an extensive national search for a leader in cardiac surgery who can bring Mount Sinai's program to the next level of excellence, we found that exceptional team in our community. Dr. Lamelas has gained both local and national recognition for his skill in

minimally invasive procedures and his outstanding outcomes. His track record of surgical excellence is unmatched in South Florida."

Statistically, Dr. Lamelas has consistently had one of the lowest morbidities and mortalities in the state of Florida as well as in the United States. He completed his training in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at the State University of New York, Health Science Center in New York in 1990. He is a council member of The Florida Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgery, and American College of Surgeons. Recently, Dr. Lamelas was an invited lecturer at the prestigious International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (ISMICS) in Rome, Italy, and an instructor of minimally invasive valve surgery at the Society of Thoracic Surgery in San Diego, California. Dr. Lamelas has been practicing at Baptist Hospital, Kendall Medical Center, Cedars Medical Center, South Miami Hospital and Mercy Hospital. "We have an unwavering dedication to the wellbeing of our patients and providing them with the best care available," said Joseph Lamelas, M.D. "I'm proud of the reputation that we have built throughout the years, and the time is right to pursue our interest in academic medicine and developing the next generation of physicians and surgeons."

Joining him is his partner of 11 years, Dr. Roy Williams, one of the nation's leaders in Video Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS). He is also a pioneer in utilizing minimally invasive techniques in aggressive early diagnosis and comprehensive treatment of lung cancer. Dr. Williams completed both his General Surgery and Cardiothoracic surgical training at the State University of New York/Kings County Hospital program. This included an additional year of designated specialized thoracic surgical training. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Angelo LaPietra has been in practice with Dr. Lamelas and Dr. Williams since 2003. His special interests include minimally invasive valve surgery, thoracic aortic aneurysm surgery, and implantation and removal of electronic cardiac devices such as pacemakers and automatic cardiac defibrillators. Born and raised in New York City, he originally graduated as an electrical engineer from Manhattan College in 1989. His passion for medicine led him to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he obtained his medical degree. He then trained in General

Surgery for five years at Montefiore Medical Center in New York and became a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery in June of 2000. Dr. LaPietra trained at New York University School of Medicine where he obtained a degree in Cardiothoracic Surgery, and he is now a Diplomat of the American Board of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

About Mount Sinai Medical Center

Founded in 1949, Mount Sinai Medical Center is the largest independent, private, not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida. Mount Sinai's Centers of Excellence combine technology, research and academics to provide innovative and comprehensive care in Cardiology, Neurology, Oncology and Orthopaedics. Mount Sinai Medical Center has the most active cardiac surgery program in Miami-Dade County with 551 open heart surgeries performed in 2007. The medical center also performed 3,749 diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterizations. One of only six statutory teaching hospitals in the state, Mount Sinai is the hospital of choice for those who seek the level of expertise and care that only a teaching hospital can offer. The medical center's commitment to quality has garnered prestigious recognition, including designation in 2008 as one of America's Top Hospitals for Geriatrics, Neurology and Neurosurgery by U.S. News & World Report.