CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER® NEWS

Media Contact: Sandy Van
Telephone: 1-800-880-2397
E-mail: sandy@prpacific.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Jan. 30, 2006

SPECIALIST AND INNOVATOR IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE PROCEDURES NAMED TO ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS

LOS ANGELES (January 30, 2006) – Edward H. Phillips, M.D., a general surgeon specializing in minimally invasive techniques, has been appointed executive vice chairman of the Department of Surgery and director of the Division of General Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Phillips, who holds patents on several instruments he developed for use in minimally invasive surgical procedures, has been on Cedars-Sinai's medical staff for 26 years and holds the Karl Storz Endowed Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery in Honor of George Berci, M.D. He also serves as director of the Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery and director of the Saul and Joyce Brandman Breast Center, a project of Women's Guild, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

"With the increasing number and variety of operations being performed through ever-smaller incisions, Dr. Phillips' interest and expertise in minimally invasive techniques make him exceptionally qualified to assume these greater oversight responsibilities," said William Brien, M.D., interim chairman of Cedars-Sinai's Department of Surgery. "He is a world-class leader in minimally invasive surgery and, in fact, there may be fewer than four or five surgeons with his skills in the entire country. He is a forward-looking individual with a mind that is refreshingly open to new ideas, and he is willing to explore opportunities. He can see things before others. That's what makes him so unique and interesting."

Although Phillips knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps to become a physician – the late Dr. Edward Phillips was a cardiologist and former chief of staff at Cedars-Sinai in the 1960s – he did not seriously consider surgery until he was immersed in a rotating internship at Los Angeles County+University of Southern California Medical Center in 1973. The chairman of surgery recognized his talent and encouraged him to pursue a surgical residency, which he did from 1974 to 1978.

In 1979, while resident supervisor, he developed the foundation for his later proficiency in laparoscopic surgery by performing micro-vascular surgery at Los Angeles County Medical Center. Because of the precision required to repair tiny structures and tissues, vascular surgeons often use fine instruments and microscopes – looking through lenses rather than viewing and handling the surgical site directly.

"Most general surgeons perform surgery with their hands, using tactile sensation, but with microvascular surgery it's all magnification, sight and light touch through delicate instruments," said Phillips, who was introduced to laparoscopic surgery by Berci, a pioneer in the field who directs Cedars-Sinai's Endoscopic Research Laboratory. "When I was introduced to the technology of laparoscopy here at Cedars-Sinai, I said, this is incredible. We should be able to do more. I started developing instrumentation and we tried to apply the technology to every surgery in the abdomen and then, of course, outside the abdomen."

(more)

Many operations that used to require long open incisions are now accomplished laparoscopically. A tube with a camera lens at the tip is inserted through one small incision and slender surgical instruments are inserted through several others. The surgical site is viewed, magnified, on a TV monitor. Incision sites heal more quickly with a lower risk of complications, allowing patients to avoid long hospital stays and return to their normal routines right away with minimal pain.

Phillips' research interest and expertise in the field are evident in the dozens of articles he has written for peer-reviewed publications and the 37 book chapters he has authored. He also has edited seven books on laparoscopic procedures, serves on the editorial boards of *Laparoendoscopic & Advanced Surgical Techniques*, *Hernia*, and *Surgical Endoscopy*, and is a member of several local, regional, national and international medical societies.

Although he enjoys creating and adapting laparoscopic instruments for new applications, Phillips said the development of new tools is not an end in itself.

"We don't just do technology for technology's sake. We analyze the technology with an emphasis on clinical outcomes," he said. "We look at all approaches with an open mind, with results to be supported by the evidence, and we follow our patients to see how they're doing. By analyzing and studying outcomes we can improve the preoperative evaluation and the actual operation so we can continue to provide the safest, most efficient, most appropriate surgery. And because we conduct clinical trials, our patients may have access to technologies and techniques that may not be available in other places."

Phillips, who has been a Southern California resident since age 4, is a graduate of Beverly Hills High School. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and medical degree from the University of Southern California before completing his internship and residency at LAC+USC Medical Center.

# # #

One of only eight hospitals in California whose nurses have been honored with the prestigious Magnet designation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is one of the largest nonprofit academic medical centers in the Western United States. For 18 consecutive years, it has been named Los Angeles' most preferred hospital for all health needs in an independent survey of area residents. Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostic and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and services, as well as breakthroughs in biomedical research and superlative medical education. It ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities and was recently fully accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). Additional information is available at www.cedars-sinai.edu.

If you have received this news release in error and do not wish to receive future advisories, or if they should be directed to someone else in your organization, please call 1-800-396-1002, so we can update our records. Alternatively, you may fax your updated information or your request for removal from our list to 808-697-1249 or e-mail it to sandy@prpacific.com.