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Press Release
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Hebrew SeniorLife's Dr. Randi Berkowitz Selected for Innovation Advisors Program to Improve Care for Patients

BOSTON — Hebrew SeniorLife, the largest provider of senior health care and housing in New England and an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, today announced that Dr. Randi Berkowitz has been selected for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Innovation Advisors Program. The initiative, launched by the CMS Innovation Center in October 2011, will help health professionals deepen skills that will drive improvements to patient care and reduce costs.

Dr. Berkowitz is one of 73 individuals from 27 States and the District of Columbia participating in the Innovation Advisors Program and one of four physicians chosen from Massachusetts. The individuals were selected from 920 applications through a competitive process, and include clinicians, allied health professionals, health administrators and others.

"At Hebrew SeniorLife, we are dedicated to identifying and embracing the latest innovations in best practices in geriatric health care, and I am confident my experience here will be an asset to the program," said Berkowitz. "I look forward to collaborating with the CMS Innovation Center to share and discuss new methods for improving patient care and reducing costs."

After an initial orientation phase, members of the program will work with the CMS Innovation Center to test new models of care delivery in their own organizations and communities. They will also create partnerships to uncover new ideas and share them both regionally and nationally. Funding for this initiative was made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

"There has been an incredible groundswell of interest in becoming an Innovation Advisor. It's clear that doctors, hospitals and health care providers are enthusiastic about implementing the Affordable Care Act and strengthening our health care system," said CMS Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner.

By attending in-person meetings as well as remote sessions to expand their skills and apply what they learn, the Advisors will be able to deepen their knowledge in health care economics and finance, population health, systems analysis and operations research.

"We're looking to these Innovation Advisors to be our partners—we want them to discover and generate new ideas that will work and help us bring them to every corner of the United States," said CMS Innovation Center Director Rick Gilfillan, M.D.

More information about the Innovation Advisors Program, including a fact sheet and a list of participants and their affiliated organizations, can be found at: <http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/innovation-advisors/index.html>.

About Hebrew SeniorLife

Founded in 1903, Hebrew SeniorLife, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit organization devoted to innovative research, health care, education and housing that improves the lives of seniors. For more information, visit www.hebrewseniorlife.org.

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