



Continuum Health Partners, Inc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The ALS Association Certified Center at Beth Israel Medical Center
Celebrates 15 Years of Service to Patients with ALS and Their Families**

New York, NY (November 29, 2011) On Wednesday, November 16, Beth Israel Medical Center celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the hospital's ALS Association Certified Center, which opened in 1996 as the first ALS Association Certified Center in New York State. The mission of the ALS Association and Beth Israel's Certified Center is to lead the fight to cure and treat Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, through global, cutting-edge research and to empower people with ALS and their families to live fuller lives by providing compassionate care and support.

Under the leadership of Medical Director Stephen Scelsa, M.D., and Associate Director Daniel MacGowan, M.D., Beth Israel's ALS Center provides a coordinated program of medical treatment, rehabilitation and support services. Comprehensive assessments, diagnostic and follow-up testing, education and treatment are individualized for each patient. "It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work with the ALS Association Center for Excellence since its earliest days," says Dr. Scelsa. "Our dedicated team of nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists, social workers, nutritionists and volunteers work tirelessly to better the lives of people with ALS and their families. We look forward to continuing our stellar patient services and leading research that we hope will further unlock the genetic code and provide for effective treatments for ALS."

As one of the ALS Association's leading chapters, the Greater New York Chapter provides a comprehensive range of medical care, support services and access to clinical research trials for 600 patients living with ALS and their families. To date, the Chapter has contributed more than \$2 million toward the Center's operations. They have also helped open two additional centers in the New York Metropolitan area. "Our partnership with Beth Israel over the last fifteen years has proven a remarkable journey that enriches the lives of patients with ALS and their families," says Dorine Gordon, President and CEO of The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter. "As the only ALS Association Center for Excellence in New York City, we have provided an array of healthcare services that continue to uplift patients and see them through some of the most difficult days they will face in their lives. We look forward to continuing this collaboration until the day we find a cure."

About Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS):

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. More than 5,600 people in the United States are diagnosed with ALS every year. ALS can strike anyone, and there is no known cause or cure.

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