September 27, 2010

Dear Colleague,

After many months of intense work and negotiations Brown University President Ruth J. Simmons and George A. Vecchione, president and CEO of Lifespan, announced that The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Lifespan have amended our affiliation agreement. The importance of this agreement cannot be overstated. Among other things, it will facilitate the expansion of our programs to compete both clinically and academically. This is essential to our existence and future.

Now we can move forward with the terms of the agreement. First and immediately we will create a joint strategic planning committee consisting of several individuals and ourselves. This committee will work on development of and investment in collaborative research, programmatic development (such as a Neurosciences Institute), core research and educational facilities, and investment in high-end instrumentation.

The agreement will increase the investment in academic medicine. Lifespan and Brown will raise funds to support a variety of academic initiatives at Alpert Medical School. We will also establish a fund for the direct support of recruiting the nation’s most talented academic and clinical leaders as department chairs for the medical school and its affiliated hospitals. Rees Cosgrove and Lou Rice, chairs of, respectively, Neurosurgery and Medicine, have already been recruited under the terms of this new agreement.

Finally we have entered into a trademark agreement that makes Rhode Island Hospital “The Principal Teaching Hospital of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.” The other Lifespan teaching hospitals will continue to be designated as “major teaching affiliates.” The enhanced designation for Rhode Island Hospital will help to improve its position in the highly competitive New England health care environment. You will begin to see the tag line and the Alpert Medical School logo in a variety of communication materials produced by the hospital.

The terms of this agreement will strengthen our identity and future position as a top-rate academic medical institution. We could not be more pleased to share this wonderful news with you.

Most sincerely,

Edward J. Wing, MD
Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Timothy J. Babineau, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital