



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Breakthrough orthopedic procedure available at  
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - Elmbrook Memorial**

December 4, 2009 – Brookfield, WI. Arthroscopically Assisted Knee Resurfacing, a groundbreaking minimally invasive technique to repair knees damaged by arthritis and physical activity, is now available at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare- Elmbrook Memorial. Dr. Sean Tracy, an orthopedic surgeon at Elmbrook Memorial, was the first to perform the procedure in the Milwaukee area. Arthroscopically Assisted Knee Resurfacing provides hope for active middle aged patients too young to qualify as candidates for total knee replacement, but for whom physical therapy, pain medication, arthroscopy, and other surgical procedures have failed to restore full function and reduce pain.

The Arthrosurface<sup>®</sup> system utilizes metal and polyethylene implants in a manner similar to how a tooth cavity is filled with a filling. A “patient matching” articular implant is inserted to fill a cartilage defect in the knee, preventing the spread of damage and preserving bone, meniscus, and cartilage in the patient.

“Almost everyday I see patients who are having pain during or after sports or even from work who are too young to be considered for a total or partial joint replacement but have passed the point of when a microfracture or allograft is an acceptable procedure,” explains Dr Tracy. “The challenge is to get them back to their normal daily activities without an extensive rehabilitation period. These patients are ideal for the Arthrosurface<sup>®</sup> procedure.”

The procedure is designed to be bone and cartilage sparing so it does not “burn bridges” should future surgery be required years later. Clinical studies have demonstrated early positive clinical outcomes and patients report outstanding pain relief, rapid recovery times, and significant range of motion improvements in multi-center studies. The Arthrosurface<sup>®</sup> Arthroscopically Assisted Knee Resurfacing procedure may be performed on outpatient basis.

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**Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare** (WFH) is a Catholic, not-for-profit organization with more than 100 health and shelter organizations in Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado, and Illinois. Started by the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters more than 125 years ago and formally incorporated in 1983, WFH has corporate services offices in Wheaton, Illinois and Glendale, Wisconsin.

In Southeast Wisconsin, WFH is co-sponsored by the Wheaton Franciscan and Felician Sisters and has nearly 11,000 associates, making it the second largest private employer in the area. Hospitals include All Saints in Racine County; Wheaton Franciscan - St. Joseph and The Wisconsin Heart Hospital Campuses, St. Francis, Franklin Hospital, and Midwest Orthopedic Specialty Hospital in Milwaukee County; and Elmbrook Memorial in Waukesha County. The region also includes Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group with more than 350 physicians in more than 50 locations, a network of outpatient centers, three transitional and extended care facilities, Home Health, and Hospice.