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David Abelson, MD, Elected Park Nicollet CEO

ST. LOUIS PARK, Minn., (October 5, 2009)—Park Nicollet Health Services' Board of Directors has elected David Abelson, MD, as Park Nicollet's new Chief Executive Officer, effective January 1, 2010. Dr. Abelson will continue to serve as Park Nicollet's President.

Park Nicollet's current CEO, David Wessner, announced his plans to retire from Park Nicollet in June 2009, effective on December 31, 2009.

"Dr. Abelson has a proven track record of senior leadership and a clear vision of Park Nicollet's important role in the community," said Kenneth Thome, Chair, Park Nicollet Board of Directors. "His long service to Park Nicollet, his experience as a physician and Chief Clinical Officer, and his leadership on information and technology issues give him unique skills to lead Park Nicollet during a time of great change in American health care."

"I'm honored to be Park Nicollet's next CEO," says Dr. Abelson. "There are many challenges ahead as changes in public policy will alter the way we deliver health care. But change also ensures continuity, and one thing will never change at Park Nicollet: the exceptional care that we provide to our patients and our community."

David Abelson joined Park Nicollet in 1983 as a practicing physician in internal medicine. In 1998, Abelson left daily practice to assume executive responsibilities, including leadership of Park Nicollet's Information Technology and Health Information Management departments. Abelson led Park Nicollet's integrated medical record initiative, resulting in Park Nicollet becoming the first health care system in the Twin Cities with a fully integrated digital medical record in July 2004. Abelson became Park Nicollet's Chief Clinical Officer in 2008 and President in June 2009.

Park Nicollet Health Services is an integrated care system that includes Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital, Park Nicollet Clinic, Park Nicollet Foundation and Park Nicollet Institute. Park Nicollet Health Services is based in St. Louis Park and has more than 7,100 employees, including 630 physicians on staff.