

June 4, 2008

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**HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
RECEIVES CHEST PAIN CENTER ACCREDITATION**

The Chest Pain Center at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) is pleased to announce it has once again received full Cycle II accreditation with PCI from the Accreditation Review Committee of the Society of Chest Pain Centers. The accreditation expires February 6, 2011.

“This designation is important because we are dedicated to providing the highest level of care available in a timely fashion, and this is especially critical for patients experiencing chest pain,” said John P. Ferguson, president and chief executive officer at HUMC.

“We are honored to receive this designation at HUMC, which is a testament to the dedication of our team,” said Joseph Feldman, M.D., FACEP, of New York, NY, chairman of Emergency Medicine and director of the Chest Pain Center at HUMC.

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. The goal of the Society of Chest Pain Centers is to significantly reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible

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heart attack, reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

The Chest Pain Center's protocol driven and systematic approach to patient management allows physicians to reduce time of treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatments are most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

With the rise of chest pain centers came the need to establish standards designed to improve the consistency and quality of care provided to patients. The Society's accreditation process ensures centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine.

The Chest Pain Center at HUMC has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Key areas in which a chest pain center must demonstrate expertise include:

- Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly
- Effectively treating patients with low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures
- Ensuring chest pain center personnel competency and training
- Maintaining organizational structure and commitment
- Having a functional design that promotes optimal patient care
- Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack

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About Hackensack University Medical Center

HealthGrades® named HUMC as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for 2007. This designation recognizes hospitals that have demonstrated superior clinical quality over a seven-year time period, based upon an analysis of more than 75 million Medicare patient records from 1999-2005. These hospitals have achieved better survival rates and lower complication rates across dozens of medical procedures and diagnoses, from cardiac care to orthopedic surgery, consistently ranking among the top five percent in the nation for overall clinical outcomes. HUMC is the only healthcare facility in New Jersey, New York, and New England to be named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals, for two years in a row.

For more information, please visit the medical center's website at www.humc.com.

About the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC)

The Society of Chest Pain Centers is a patient centric non-profit international professional organization focused upon improving care for patients with acute coronary syndromes and other related maladies. Established in 1998, the society is dedicated to patient advocacy and focusing on ischemic heart disease. Central to its mission is the question, "What is right for the patient?" In answer, the society promotes protocol based medicine, often delivered through a chest pain center model to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, the Society of Chest Pain Centers provides accreditation to facilities striving for optimum chest pain center care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information on the Society of Chest Pain Centers visit www.scpcp.org, or contact Robert Lipetz, executive director at 614-442-5950 or director@scpcp.org.

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Pictured from left are: Joseph Feldman, M.D., FACEP, of New York, NY, chairman of Emergency Medicine and director of the Chest Pain Center at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC); and Geri Vargas, RN, APN, of Demarest, of the Emergency Trauma Department at HUMC, accept recognition for the Chest Pain Center accreditation.