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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYM Offers Comprehensive Treatments For Atrial Fibrillation

New York Methodist Hospital recently began offering a complete range of treatments for atrial fibrillation, including a procedure called ablation. Doctors performing an ablation who are specialists in the cardiology subspecialty known as electrophysiology, use an advanced mapping system to locate the source of the patient's heart arrhythmia, and then eliminate this source with techniques that may involve applying radiofrequency energy.

"Electrophysiologists at New York Methodist Hospital are able to provide the highest quality treatment to patients who are diagnosed with this prevalent heart arrhythmia," said David Benson, M.D., associate director of the electrophysiology lab at New York Methodist Hospital.

One of the most common types of heart arrhythmias in the United States, atrial fibrillation is an irregular heart rhythm that originates in the upper chambers of the heart and can result in lack of energy, missed days at work, or trips to the emergency room. Symptoms of atrial fibrillation may include heart palpitations, dizziness, chest discomfort, or shortness of breath.

"While not all patients with atrial fibrillation may be ideal candidates for ablation, they should certainly be evaluated for this procedure when they are not tolerating medications well, or the medications cannot help their hearts stay in a regular rhythm," said Gioia Turitto, M.D., director of electrophysiology at New York Methodist Hospital.

“Patients must meet certain criteria involving their age, health, and ability to safely undergo this procedure.”

Devices such as an implantable pacemaker, or a combination of devices and medications, can help patients who may not be able to undergo ablation. “The highly trained cardiologists who specialize in electrophysiology at New York Methodist are able to devise a specialized treatment plan that works best for each patient,” said Terrence Sacchi, M.D., chief of cardiology at NYM.

For a referral to a cardiologist or a cardiac surgeon affiliated with New York Methodist Hospital, please call 866-84-HEART or visit www.nym.org.

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New York Methodist Hospital, a voluntary, acute-care teaching facility located in Brooklyn’s Park Slope, houses 651 inpatient beds (including bassinets) and provides services to over 32,000 inpatients each year. An additional 350,000 outpatient visits and services are logged annually. The Hospital offers Institutes in the following areas: Advanced and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Asthma and Lung Disease; Cancer Care; Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery; Digestive and Liver Disorders; Diabetes and Other Endocrine Disorders; Vascular Medicine and Surgery; Family Care; Neurosciences; Orthopedic Medicine and Surgery and Women’s Health. The Hospital, founded in 1881, has undergone extensive renovation and modernization over the years. New York Methodist is affiliated with the Weill College of Medicine at Cornell University and it is a member of NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System.