

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elmhurst Hospital Hosts Second Annual Pedestrian Injury Summit

Hospital releases study showing traffic accidents as leading cause of blunt trauma injuries seen in ER.

Physicians, government officials, and community activists discuss ways to alleviate problem

Elmhurst, NY--On Friday, January 22nd, physicians, hospital administrators, transportation and traffic safety experts and community activists gathered at Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) for the second annual New York City Summit on Pedestrian Injury. The one-day symposium, part of a public education and outreach campaign developed by Elmhurst Hospital Center's Trauma and Neurosurgery Departments, examined pedestrian injuries and their impact on public health.

"Neighborhoods in western and central Queens, (the catchment area for Elmhurst Hospital Center), have seen an increasing rise in the number of traffic accidents involving pedestrians," said Dr. Jaime Ullman, Elmhurst Hospital Center's Director of Neurosurgery and one of the chief organizers of the summit. "According to a recent study we conducted, traffic accidents involving pedestrians, especially those taking place on Queens Boulevard, Northern Boulevard, and Roosevelt Avenue, resulted in more than 30% of the injuries seen in Elmhurst Hospital Center's Emergency Room."

Ullman noted that that statistic is frighteningly high. "Pedestrian injuries typically make up 9% to 25% of injuries seen at hospitals in other parts of the city."

By analyzing EHC's admissions data, Ullman and her investigative team also discovered that pedestrian injuries were one of the leading causes of individuals having to actually be hospitalized, sometimes for long periods, due to suffering serious neurological damage.

Other summit participants included representatives from the New York State and New York City Departments of Transportation, NYPD, EMS, NYU School of Medicine, New York Hospital of Queens, and Staten Island University Hospital, who discussed the challenges faced by municipal governments, healthcare institutions, and community-based organizations seeking to raise public awareness regarding pedestrian injuries. Marjorie Marciano of the New York City Department of Transportation talked about how DOT had begun tackling those challenges through an education campaign being implemented at a number of schools throughout the five boroughs. Shin-pei Tsay of Transportation Alternatives, a grass-roots non-profit that advocates for the increased use of bicycles and pedestrian walkways, presented information about the innovative solutions being used in other cities around the world to decrease congestion on

roadways and create more pedestrian-friendly urban areas.

“We really need to make an aggressive, multi-lingual outreach effort to educate the public about these injuries,” said Dr. Ullman when asked what additional steps she thought should be taken to help reduce the number of pedestrian injury victims. “In a way, I’d like to be put of business, because we are seeing way too many patients with serious blunt trauma injuries that were entirely preventable.”

For more about Elmhurst Hospital Center’s Pedestrian Injury Prevention Campaign, please contact Atiya Butler, Assistant Director of External Affairs, at 718.334.1259 or by e-mail at atiya.butler@nychhc.org.

About Elmhurst Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. The hospital is comprised of 545 beds and is a Level I Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911 Receiving Hospital. It is the premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Renal and Mental Health Services.

Elmhurst Hospital Center serves an area of approximately one million people. This community is recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Last year, EHC received 693,600 ambulatory care visits as well as receiving 130,042 Emergency Room visits making it one of the busiest ERs in New York City. Over 4,200 babies were delivered at Elmhurst last year alone-the most in this region. Ensuring accessible health care is our priority.