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December 18, 2009

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LINCOLN HOSPITAL BREAST CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Lincoln is Only Hospital in New York City, and Among Five in New York State, to Receive Designation Awarded by the "National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers"

Bronx, New York – Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center announced today that its Breast Center has received accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), making the facility the only hospital in New York City--and one of five in New York State--to hold this distinction.

The three-year, full accreditation designation by the NAPBC--a program administered by the American College of Surgeons, the largest organization of surgeons in the world-- is granted to centers that have voluntarily committed to provide the best in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment and undergo a meticulous evaluation process and review of their performance. During the survey process, Lincoln's Breast Center demonstrated full compliance with the rigorous standards established by the NAPBC for treating the full spectrum of breast disease, ranging from benign breast disease to breast cancer.

"This significant achievement is reflective of Lincoln Hospital Breast Center's commitment to pursue excellence and untiring dedication to offer our patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease," said José R. Sanchez, Lincoln Hospital Executive Director and Senior Vice President of Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network. "Receiving care at a NAPBC-accredited center ensures that a patient will have access to a multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best treatment options, get information about ongoing clinical trials and, most importantly, receive quality breast care close to home."

The Breast Center has been providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary quality care since it opened in 2001 and offers specialized services that include screening and diagnostic imaging, breast surgery and reconstruction, medical and radiation oncology, risk assessment and genetic counseling as well as access to clinical trials. Community Outreach and a Patient Navigation Program are other important components of services rendered by the Center. The Breast Center sees between 100 to 120 new cases of breast cancer per year and has treated over 2,800 patients in its breast clinic thus far in 2009. Annually, Lincoln Hospital provides over 9,000 mammograms and over 2,300 breast ultrasound examinations.

“The full accreditation designation awarded by the prestigious American College of Surgeons attests to Lincoln Hospital Breast Center’s adherence to the highest standards of care in an optimal clinical environment,” said Melissa P. Schori, M.D., Medical Director. “Lincoln’s Breast Center demonstrated proficiency in the areas of center leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, professional education and quality improvement.”

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 184,450 patients will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the United States in 2008. According to the ACS, hundreds of thousands of women who will deal with benign breast disease will require medical evaluation for treatment options. Women in the South Bronx experience significant barriers to health care access, in particular, cancer screening and treatment. Factors contributing to the problem include financial constraints, language barriers, immigration status, lack of transportation, inadequate social support systems and lack of information.

“The residents of this community deserve quality and equity in health care,” said Dr. Sydney McCalla, Attending Surgeon and Director of the Lincoln Breast Center. “The population we serve is burdened with a disproportionate number of treatable diseases, including breast cancer, which too often go undiagnosed. The Breast Center seeks to provide our patients with all-inclusive care designed to improve health outcomes.”

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, located at 234 E. 149th Street in the Bronx, is a 347-bed, acute care level 1 trauma center with the busiest single site emergency department in the region. The hospital emphasizes primary care and specialty medicine and utilizes the latest advances in medical science. Lincoln Hospital is a member of the Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network, a healthcare conglomerate which is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), is a \$6.3 billion integrated healthcare delivery system and the largest municipal healthcare organization in the country. HHC serves 1.3 million New Yorkers every year and nearly 450,000 who are uninsured. HHC provides medical, mental health and substance abuse services through its 11 acute care hospitals, four skilled nursing facilities, six large diagnostic and treatment centers and more than 80 community based clinics. HHC Health and Home Care also provide health services at home for New Yorkers. To learn more about HHC, visit www.nyc.gov/hhc.