



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2013

Contact: Nydia Negron – Office of Public Affairs 718-579-5777

**Lincoln Medical Center Receives National Outstanding Achievement Award
from American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer**

Only Cancer Program in NYC to Receive this National Honor for Surveys Performed in 2012

Bronx, New York - Lincoln Medical Center was recently presented with the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer, becoming the only cancer program in New York City and one among a select group of only 16 percent of U.S. health care facilities with accredited cancer programs to receive this national honor for surveys performed last year. The Cancer Center is the recipient of this award for the second consecutive time.

The award recognizes cancer programs that achieve excellence in providing the highest quality of care to cancer patients. The 3-year re-accreditation survey, which took place in October 2012, consisted of rigorous evaluations of 29 program standards in the areas of clinical leadership, cancer data management, clinical services and quality improvement. In addition to receiving a compliance rating in each standard, the program was granted commendations in eight. Only 16 percent, or 79 out of more than 500 cancer programs surveyed in 2012, received the National Outstanding Achievement Award.

Daniel P. McKellar, MD, FACS, Chair of the Commission on Cancer noted, "We at the Commission are proud of your achievements and applaud your outstanding efforts. Not only have you met the required standards of our Accreditation Program, but you have also excelled in all areas where Commendation is available to programs that exceed the required standards."

"This recognition exemplifies our Cancer Center's commitment to excel in the provision of exceptional patient-centered care focused on improving health outcomes," said Milton Nuñez, Lincoln Medical Center's Executive Director. "I extend my congratulations to Dr. Niyati Bhagwati, Cancer Center Director, and her multidisciplinary team for their steadfast commitment to sustaining the highest level of care, enhancing the quality of life of our cancer patients and their families. Similarly, the Breast Center, under Dr. Sydney McCalla's leadership, earned another 3 year reaccreditation from the American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers and continues to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer in our community."

"The Cancer Center's team, also recognized with the Commission's 2009 Outstanding Achievement Award, serves as a role model to healthcare institutions throughout the nation, sharing best practices and quality-care resources with other cancer programs," said Melissa P. Schori, Lincoln Medical Center's Chief Medical Officer. "We are proud that we are delivering the caliber of care that our cancer patients and their families need and deserve."

"This award recognizes the stellar performance of our cancer program team which includes doctors and nurses from various specialties and health education staff whose priority is to improve the

quality of service for our cancer patients,” said Dr. Niyati Bhagwati, Cancer Center Director. “We are proud to, once again, demonstrate a high level of compliance with meticulous standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program.”

Dr. Sydney McCalla, Lincoln Medical Center’s Breast Center Director, noted, “This recognition acknowledges our commitment to eliminating barriers to cancer care, promoting early detection and preventive care that can save lives.”

For a list of all cancer programs in the U.S. that received the Outstanding Achievement Award in 2012, visit <http://www.facs.org/cancer/coc/outstandingachievement2012list.html>

About the Breast Center

Lincoln’s Breast Center, an integral component of the Cancer Center, was also surveyed in 2012 and awarded full three-year reaccreditation, demonstrating its commitment to be compliant with all 27 standards by which the program was evaluated by the American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). It earned the distinction of being the first site in New York City to receive accreditation by the NAPBC in 2009, recognizing Lincoln Hospital as a *Center of Excellence for Breast Care*.

A symbol of comprehensive and quality breast cancer care, the Breast Center emphasizes the importance of improving access to services through outreach efforts provided by Viva Mujer support group to enhance community-based prevention and detection efforts. It is one of 500 accredited breast cancer programs in the United States.

About Lincoln Medical Center

Lincoln Medical Center, located at 234 East 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. Winner of the 2012 American Hospital Association-McKesson Quest for Quality Finalist Award, the hospital emphasizes primary care and specialty medicine and utilizes the latest advances in medical science. Lincoln Medical Center 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.

About HHC

The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) is a \$6.7 billion integrated healthcare delivery system with its own 430,000 member health plan, MetroPlus, and is the largest municipal healthcare organization in the country. HHC serves 1.4 million New Yorkers every year and more than 475,000 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 70 community based clinics. HHC Health and Home Care also provides in-home services for New Yorkers. HHC is the recipient of the National Quality Forum and The Joint Commission's John M. Eisenberg Award for Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/hhc