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**DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM AT LINCOLN MEDICAL CENTER
RECEIVES FOUR-YEAR RE-ACCREDITATION**

***Innovative Diabetes Education Center of Excellence
Emphasizes Prevention and Self-Management of the Disease to Avoid Complications***

Bronx, N.Y. - Lincoln Medical Center announced today that its Diabetes Center of Excellence received four-year re-accreditation by the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). The specialized program provides self-management education that meets national standards for quality care, according to AADE's Diabetes Education Accreditation guidelines. It offers a culturally competent and patient centered bilingual curriculum that focuses on Type 2 diabetes, obesity and the prevention of complications from the disease.

"This is welcome news for the South Bronx--a community with a high prevalence of diagnosed diabetes in New York City," said Milton Nuñez, Lincoln Medical Center's Executive Director. "The AADE's re-accreditation recognizes the outstanding work of our skilled diabetes team whose exceptional knowledge and dedication provide patients with increased understanding of diabetes and self-management of the disease."

A NYC Health Department report released on June 10, 2013, states that death rates related to diabetes are at an all-time high, though lower than the national average. The report shows that since 1990, the proportion of all New York City deaths related to diabetes nearly doubled from 6.0% in 1990 to 10.8% in 2011. In other relevant statistics, an April 2013 Data Brief issued by the Department indicates that nearly 650,000 adult New Yorkers reported having diabetes in 2011, an increase of 200,000 adults since 2002.

"In view of the reported rise in diabetes-related mortality rates, we are gratified that our Diabetes Center of Excellence has been implementing a curriculum that emphasizes the prevention and management of diabetes complications especially cardiovascular disease, one of the leading causes of mortality among persons with diabetes," said Melissa P. Schori, Lincoln Medical Center's Chief Medical Officer. She added: "Unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications of diabetes may be prevented through self-management and a sustained high-quality clinical care."

"In our work with patients with diabetes, our teaching strategies are tailored to the culture and language of each patient while emphasizing healthy eating, exercise, effective use of medications and regular healthcare visits to help with the management of this chronic disease," said Lorena Drago, MS, RD, CDN, CDE, Diabetes Education Program Director.

In an effort to further advance its outreach and educational efforts, the program has instituted a Diabetes Education Advisory Board composed of a multidisciplinary group of health care professionals, administrators, community members and patients.

Akinola Fisher, M.D., Chief of Ambulatory Care and member of the Diabetes Education Advisory Board, stated: “Heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, blindness, nerve disease and amputation are among the life-threatening complications associated with diabetes. As it relates to prevention of diabetic Retinal Disease, we are taking a proactive role by increasing retinal screening rates to ensure early identification and management of diabetic retinopathy, an eye disease that can lead to blindness but which is treatable with early detection and intervention.”

For more information about Lincoln Medical Center’s Diabetes Education Program, call 718-579-5000 ext.3538. Copies of healthy recipes can be obtained at Lincoln Medical Center’s website at <http://www.nyc.gov/hhc/lincoln/cookbook>. Other resourceful information can be obtained at <http://www.nyc.gov/hhc/diabetes>. You may also call 311 to find an HHC public hospital or health center near you.

About Lincoln Medical Center

Lincoln Medical 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. 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.

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