



GENERATIONS+ NORTHERN MANHATTAN HEALTH NETWORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2012

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**LINCOLN HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES EXPANSION
AND RENOVATION OF CANCER CENTER INFUSION SUITE**
*Patient-Centered Modernization Increases Capacity, Cuts Down Wait Time,
Enhances Patient Comfort*

**- Unveiling of Bronze Memorial Plaque Honors Distinguished
Community Activist's Exceptional Contributions to Cancer Center -**

Bronx, New York – Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center today celebrated the renovation of its Infusion Suite during a ribbon cutting ceremony, marking the continued improvement of its award-winning Cancer Center. The renovated outpatient Infusion Suite allows for increased capacity, going from 6 to 11 infusion stations featuring reclining chairs, individual television screens and head phones for comfort and privacy. This expansion comes at a time when chemotherapy infusions at the Cancer Center have increased 35% in 2012 to date, compared to 2011.

Renovation of the Suite was made possible through \$80,000 in partial funding from the Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary to help defray the cost of reconstruction, which amounts to a total of \$150,000.

“This modernized Infusion Suite exemplifies our commitment to reversing disparities in cancer outcomes and fosters improved access to the medically underserved in our community,” said Iris R. Jimenez-Hernandez, Network Senior Vice President and Lincoln Hospital Executive Director. “With the latest in modern technology, the improved outpatient setting offers an effective option to hospitalization, enhancing our ability to improve the quality of life of our cancer patients and their families.”

The Cancer Center, under the skilled guidance of Dr. Niyati Bhagwati, was successfully re-accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer in November 2009. The Center was also a recipient of the 2009 Commission on Cancer “Outstanding Achievement Award”. Only 18% or 82 out of the 432 cancer programs surveyed in 2009 received this distinction.

“This award recognizes Lincoln Hospital’s strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients and for demonstrating a commendation level of compliance with rigorous standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program,” said Dr. Bhagwati.

“Our renovated Infusion Suite gives us the impetus to continue striving to eradicate barriers to care, improving access to early diagnosis and preventive care that can save lives,” said Melissa P. Schori, Chief Medical Officer, adding that “walk-in appointments are now available for mammograms to further meet the need for easier access and timely intervention.”

In addition, Lincoln Hospital's Breast Center, an integral component of the Cancer Center, was the first site in New York City to receive accreditation by the American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers in 2009, recognizing Lincoln as a "Center of Excellence for Breast Cancer".

Dr. Sydney McCalla, Lincoln Breast Center Director, noted, "Breast cancer continues to be one of the leading causes of cancer death among women of all races and those of Hispanic origin. In our quest to promote awareness of the disease in these difficult economic times, we have found great support from our Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary. With a generous grant from the Auxiliaries, we were able to hold the first conference on Disparities in Breast Cancer and the disproportionate burdens that adversely affect minority women."

The celebratory event today included the unveiling of a bronze memorial plaque honoring the lifetime achievements of Angela E. Randall (1928-2011) who for many years served as Chair of the Lincoln Hospital Auxiliary. As a cancer survivor, she was a firm believer in the importance of educating the community about cancer prevention and worked closely with the Auxiliary Committee to provide generous annual grants to Viva Mujer, Viva los Hombres, the outreach and education components of the Cancer Center.

"This is a fitting occasion to posthumously extend our heartfelt gratitude to a remarkable human being who dedicated a lifetime to public service," said Mrs. Jimenez-Hernandez. "She left a legacy of love and commitment to humanity that will continue to inspire her family and friends. The plaque unveiled today will be a constant reminder of her selfless love for Lincoln Hospital, its staff and patients."

More About the Cancer Center

The Cancer Center's clinical and support services offered to patients include, but are not limited to, chemotherapy and biotherapy infusions, in-patient and out-patient consultations, screening, patient and family education, support groups and community-based prevention and detection programs under the *For You, For Life, Viva Mujer & Viva Los Hombres* programs.

The Cancer Center also assesses and monitors the adequacy of pain management and the need for palliative care services and psychological counseling. These three multidisciplinary services are critical components of a comprehensive cancer program that provides a range of services to the patients, their families and significant others.

About Lincoln Hospital

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.

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