

## ***Media Advisory***

**For Immediate Release:**

July 28, 2009

**Contact:**

John Gonda

Director, Marketing & Public Relations

321-636-2211 ext 1512

### **Wuesthoff Medical Center-Rockledge once again recognized in *US News & World Report* for implementing quality cardiac care**

*ROCKLEDGE, FL* — For the third consecutive year, The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have recognized Wuesthoff Medical Center-Rockledge for its gold-level performance in treating coronary artery disease patients using the association's Get With The Guidelines<sup>SM</sup> program. Wuesthoff Medical Center-Rockledge is one of only 12 hospitals in Florida being recognized for this honor in the 2009 "America's Best Hospitals" issue of *US News & World Report*.

"We are proud that the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association have once again chosen to recognize Wuesthoff Health System for our ongoing commitment to providing excellent cardiac care to patients in Brevard County," said Emil P. Miller, FACHE, President and CEO.

"Our physicians, nurses and staff continually dedicate themselves to improving the quality of medical care within our community and this is just one more example of how Wuesthoff Health System is leading the way in these nationally recognized standards of care," added Vinay Mehindru, M.D., Vice-President of Medical Affairs.

Get With The Guidelines<sup>SM</sup> is a hospital based quality-improvement program designed to ensure that hospitals consistently care for cardiac and stroke patients following the most up-to-date guidelines and recommendations. The program provides three modules that address coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke. Currently more than 1,450 hospitals use one or more Get With The Guidelines<sup>SM</sup> modules. Upon meeting each module's criteria, hospitals are recognized if at least 85 percent of their cardiac or stroke patients are treated and discharged according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's recommendations.

“The American Heart Association is pleased to recognize its top Get With The Guidelines participants,” said. Lee Schwamm, M.D., national chairman, of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee, associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and Vice Chairman of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

“Healthcare providers who use Get With The Guidelines are armed with the latest evidence-based guidelines and immediate access to clinical decision support. The goal of this initiative is to ultimately improve the quality of life and help reduce deaths among heart and stroke patients.”

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