



For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Schmitt, 327-3318

Christiana Care Health System receives accreditation in nuclear medicine

One of the first labs in the United States to receive accreditation

Wilmington, DE (Jan. 13, 2004) -- Christiana Care Health System's department of Nuclear Medicine has achieved accreditation from the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL), for both its nuclear cardiology and nuclear medicine programs.

The accreditation, which lasts for three years, extends to Christiana and Wilmington hospitals and Christiana Care Imaging Services' outpatient nuclear medicine lab. Nuclear cardiology and general nuclear medicine use radioactive medication to image most of the body's organs, tissues and muscles.

Bettering lives of patients

"We are honored to receive this accreditation," says Vidya Sagar, M.D., medical director of Christiana Care's Nuclear Medicine services. "It speaks to the terrific work that many people in our labs perform each day, bettering the lives of our patients and furthering the health of our community."

According to ICANL, Christiana Care is one of the first nuclear cardiology and nuclear medicine laboratories in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico to receive accreditation for "its commitment to high quality patient care and its provision of quality diagnostic testing." There are more than 3,900 hospital-based nuclear medicine departments in the United States, according to the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

ICANL is a non-profit organization that provides a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality nuclear cardiology and nuclear medicine diagnostic evaluations.

About Christiana Care

Christiana Care Health System, which traces its roots back to 1888, is one of the region's largest not-for profit health care providers, serving the people of Delaware as well as neighboring Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, long-term and transitional care services and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services. Last year, Christiana Care provided \$37 million of charity care.