University of Colorado Hospital rises nationally, named #1 hospital in metro area

AURORA, Colo. (July 18, 2011) – The University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) has been ranked the best hospital in the Denver metro area for the second consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report.

UCH ranks nationally in multiple specialties: pulmonology (#1), nephrology (#16), rheumatology (#17), cancer (#34) and neurology and neurosurgery (#50). The hospital also has several specialties in the “high-performing” category, which means the following programs rank in the top 25 percent of the hospitals in the survey: cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, ear, nose and throat, gastroenterology, geriatrics, gynecology, orthopedics, rehabilitation and urology.

During the past 10 months, UCH has also been named among the 10 best academic hospitals in the country by University HealthSystems Consortium, as having one of the best nursing corps in the world by the American Nurse Credentialing Center, and has been cited for achieving excellent outcomes in stroke care, cancer care and, among others, burn trauma care by various nationwide health care professional credentialing organizations.

The latest U.S. News rankings included 720 hospitals out of about 5,000 hospitals nationwide. Each ranked among the country’s top hospitals in at least one medical specialty and/or ranked among the best hospitals in its metro area.

The annual ranking’s core goal is to help guide patients who need an especially high level of care, which may mean a difficult surgery, a challenging condition, or added risk because of other health concerns.

This is the 17th consecutive year UCH has appeared in the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital rankings.
“We are always proud when our patient care and superior outcomes are recognized nationally,” said University of Colorado Hospital President and CEO Bruce Schroffel. “People come to UCH from all over the world looking for the excellence in health care that we provide. Every person in our organization knows we must continue looking for ways to elevate our standards and the very complex care we provide Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region.”

This year UCH shares its #1 ranking in pulmonology with National Jewish Health, its outstanding partner in research, clinical care and fellowship training. Both hospitals previously have been ranked as among the top 10 places for respiratory care. But, after changing its methodology (*U.S. News and World Report* now requires a minimum number of inpatient discharges to qualify, which National Jewish did not have), the magazine chose to list UCH and National Jewish as a single entity.

The magazine combines data—mortality rates, patient safety, procedure volume and other objective results in treating Medicare patients—and some physician opinion in ranking most of the specialties. For four of the specialties, the rankings rely entirely on responses to a national survey, in which physicians were asked to name hospitals they consider best in their specialty for the toughest cases.

The rankings cover 16 medical specialties and all 94 metro areas that have at least 500,000 residents and at least one hospital that performed well enough to be ranked. A complete list of *Best Hospitals* rankings is available online at [www.usnews.com/besthospitals](http://www.usnews.com/besthospitals). The rankings, annually published by U.S. News for the past 22 years, will also be featured in the *U.S. News Best Hospitals* guidebook, which will go on sale August 30.

**About University of Colorado Hospital**

[University of Colorado Hospital](http://www.uochospitals.org) is the Rocky Mountain region’s leading academic medical center. It is ranked among the top 10 academic medical centers in the United States by the [University HealthSystem Consortium](http://www.uhc.org), and is ranked as the best hospital in the Denver metro area and one of the best in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. UCH is best known as an innovator in patient care and often as one of the first hospitals to bring new medicine to patients’ bedside. The hospital’s physicians are affiliated with the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](http://medicine.ucdenver.edu), part of the University of Colorado system. Based on the expansive Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, CO, the hospital is where patient care, research and education converge to establish the future of health care delivery. For additional information, please visit the [University of Colorado Hospital](http://www.uochospitals.org) media page.

###