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### **North Bronx Healthcare Network Hosts Regional Perinatal Conference**

**BRONX, NY, March 26, 2010** – More than 160 healthcare professionals attended a Perinatal Center Conference hosted by North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH) on March 17. The conference, entitled “Improving Safety: Making the Case For Evidence-Based Medicine Throughout The Perinatal Continuum,” focused on a variety of topics including perinatal risk reduction, safety initiatives in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the importance of bereavement support, and the role of clinical leadership in improving patient safety through evidence-based medicine.

“Naturally, the goal of any OB/GYN provider is to ensure a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery for both mom and baby,” said Wendy Wilcox, MD, MPH, Vice Chairperson, OB-GYN, North Bronx Healthcare Network (NBHN). “However, since New York City has historically had higher than average maternal and infant mortality rates, it was important for us to address how medical professionals can improve safety by reviewing evidence-based medical practices.”

According to New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in 2008 the Bronx had the highest infant mortality rate and the highest neonatal mortality rate in the city. The Bronx also has the highest fetal-infant mortality rate followed by Brooklyn.

The Health and Hospitals Corporation’s (HHC) expertise in providing expert care to mothers and their infants is recognized by the New York State Health Department, which designates hospitals to provide different levels of care, depending upon the risk that is present in any pregnancy.

NCBH’s sister facility, Jacobi Medical Center, is one of two HHC facilities designated as a Regional Perinatal Center (RPC), which is the highest state designation. RPCs make available all the services and expertise required by the most acutely sick or at-risk pregnant women and newborns. They coordinate transfers of high-risk patients from other hospitals to their facilities and are responsible for the support, education, consultation and improvements in the quality of care in the affiliate hospitals within their region.

“I am confident that this conference has provided the attendees with important information about how to reduce risk and develop uniform processes to improve perinatal care for patients,” said Dr. Wilcox. “Ensuring the delivery of safe, effective and compassionate care is always our top priority.”

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Photo caption: NCBH and Jacobi staff recently hosted a Regional Perinatal Conference to address important issues related to perinatal care. Pictured (l-r) Nancy Valentine, SAD; Sandra Asanjarani, Sandra Asanjarani, RNC, NP; Donna Geiss, ADN; Dawn Africa, RNC, CNS; Wendy Wilcox, MD, MPH, Vice Chairperson, OB-GYN, NBHN; Susan Gross, MD, Chairperson, OB-GYN, NBHN; Annie Gibeau, CNM, PhD; Barbara Wikoren, AED; Vera Appiah-Agyemang, ADN; Jean Phipps, ADN; Barry Karpel, DO; Susan Papera, CNM.

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#### About North Central Bronx Hospital

North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH) is part of HHC's North Bronx Healthcare Network, which includes Jacobi Medical Center. A 215-bed community hospital, NCBH specializes in women's and children's services. Its renowned outpatient department has led the way in community-based care that is delivered in a compassionate and culturally-appropriate manner. As member facilities of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Jacobi and NCBH are committed to providing safe, high quality medical care, for any and all in need.

#### About Jacobi Medical Center

Jacobi Medical Center is part of HHC's North Bronx Healthcare Network, which includes North Central Bronx Hospital. A 457-bed teaching hospital affiliated with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Jacobi offers numerous centers of excellence including its renowned trauma center, multi-person hyperbaric unit, burn center, surgical intensive care unit, stroke center and regional perinatal center. Jacobi's new Ambulatory Care Pavilion is a stunning complement to its recently constructed inpatient facility and allows staff to provide outpatients with high-quality care in a modern, state-of-the-art environment.

