



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: *Laura Comer*

VP, Strategic Implementation
University General Hospital Systems, LLP

1221 McKinney , Suite 3845

Houston, TX 77010

(281) 768-6015 (office)

(713) 652-3888 (fax)

Email: lcomer@uhsys.net

www.universitygeneralhospitalssystem.com

Houston's University General Hospital is Recognized for High-Quality Care in Bariatric Surgery

HOUSTON, TX. (October 31, 2007) – University General Hospital, located near the Texas Medical Center, has been designated as a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence (BSCOE) by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). This designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric surgery.

To earn the Center of Excellence designation, University General Hospital underwent a rigorous process during which all aspects of the program's surgical processes were closely examined and data on surgical outcomes was reviewed and analyzed.

“This highly regarded designation is one example of University General Hospital’s commitment to clinical excellence. We are committed to improving the health of patients who are suffering from the disease of morbid obesity. In our first year of operations our hospital has performed over 900 bariatric surgeries. We are indeed honored to be a part of the ASMBS program”, said Kamran Nezami, CEO and President of University General Hospital Systems.

"We are very proud to have a truly comprehensive bariatric program that has passed the stringent process to become a Center of Excellence. We have created an atmosphere conducive to the healing process, providing quality care that is sensitive to body, mind and spirit," said Trudy Ivins, RN, Director of the Bariatric Program for the hospital.

University General Hospital offers the full spectrum of bariatric surgical procedures including Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass Roux-en-Y, Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding (Lap Band), Laparoscopic Gastric Sleeve and Weight-Loss Surgery Revisions. Drs. Robert Davis and Garth Davis from The Learning Channel’s hit show ***BIG MEDICINE***, are the BSCOE designated surgeons at University General Hospital. The



hospital's medical staff also includes renowned bariatric surgeons Dr. Robert Marvin, Dr. Fernando Miranda, Dr. Felix Spiegel, and Dr. Erik Wilson.

According to a 2007 report released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the number of bariatric surgeries has grown from 16,000 procedures performed in 1992 to 170,000 in 2005. Faced with clinical evidence that the most experienced and best-run bariatric surgery programs have by far the lowest rates of complications, the ASBS Centers of Excellence program was created to recognize bariatric surgery centers that perform well and to help surgeons and hospitals continue to improve the quality and safety of care provided.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 66 percent of all U.S. adults are overweight or obese.

About University General Hospital Systems

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, University General Hospital Systems is a national for-profit healthcare system that provides the highest quality and cost effective medical services available within a five-star environment. By partnering with leading vendors, world-renowned physicians, and top professionals in the healthcare industry, University General Hospital Systems will be placing additional five-star, physician-owned acute-care facilities in key markets across the United States. Further information about University General Hospital Systems may be found online at www.universitygeneralhospitalssystem.com.

About American Society for Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric surgery (ASMBS) is the largest society for this specialty in the world. Founded in 1983, foremost American surgeons have formed the society's leadership and have established an excellent organization with educational and support programs for surgeons and allied health professionals. The purpose of the society is to advance the art and science of bariatric surgery by continued encouragement of its members to: pursue investigations in both the clinic and the laboratory; interchange ideas, information and experience pertaining to bariatric surgery; promote paramedical persons, and lay people; and promote outcome studies and quality assurance. For more information about ASMBS, please visit www.asmb.org

About Surgical Review Corporation

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to surgical excellence. SRC's mission is to promote the delivery of surgical care with the highest levels of efficacy, efficiency, and safety possible. For more information about SRC or to download a Center of Excellence application, please visit www.surgicalreview.org