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**St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital's Bariatric Surgery Program Reaccredited by
The American College of Surgeons Bariatric Surgery Center Network**

New York, NY (February 18, 2010) The American College of Surgeons Bariatric Surgery Center Network (ACS BSCN) Accreditation Program's Advisory Committee recently reaccredited St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals' Center (SLRC) for Bariatric Surgery and Metabolic Disease as an ACS Level 1-A accredited bariatric center.

ACS BSCN accredits U.S. bariatric surgery programs after they undergo independent, voluntary and rigorous evaluations and meet nationally recognized standards. Accrediting programs promote uniform standard benchmarks and continuous quality improvement.

The Level 1-A rating is only achieved by hospitals that have demonstrated that they have the capacity to manage and have committed resources to provide complete bariatric surgical care on an inpatient basis. These hospitals have high-volume practices, can manage the most challenging and complex patients, engage patients at all levels of obesity and set standards of care for weight-loss operations, ages, comorbid conditions and re-operations. Level 1 facilities must perform 125 or more weight-loss operations annually with at least two credentialed and experienced bariatric surgeons who have each performed at least 100 weight-loss operations in the previous 24 months.

“We have worked hard to create a bariatric surgery program that's focused on minimally invasive options, impressive success statistics and high patient satisfaction,” says Julio Teixeira, MD, Director of the Division of Bariatric Surgery at SLRC. “We are thrilled that the American College of Surgeons has recognized our efforts and assigned us the highest status level possible.”

St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals' Center for Bariatric Surgery and Metabolic Disease is a comprehensive weight management program that works in collaboration with the nationally recognized New York Center for Obesity Research. It is a national leader in minimally invasive surgery, setting new trends in GI stenting and single-incision laparoscopic surgery. The Center's surgeons also act as reviewers to help ACS certify bariatric programs nationally.

The Center has also received a Healthgrades award for best outcomes in New York, and recently was chosen as one of only five centers designated by New York State to surgically treat obesity in New York City.

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