



News Release

Cindy Hamilton
Director, Public Relations
Cindy.Hamilton@bmcjax.com

1325 San Marco Boulevard
Suite 601
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Phone: 904.202.4907
Fax: 904.202.4920
e-baptisthealth.com

University of Florida Pediatric Cardiovascular Center, in Association with Wolfson Children's Hospital, Receives Accreditation for Echocardiography Laboratories

First Program in Florida to Be Accredited in Three Modalities

Jacksonville, Florida, March 22, 2006 – Today in the United States, more than one million people are living with congenital heart disease. Eight of every 1,000 infants are born with some type of congenital heart defect, from murmurs to serious disorders that will require cardiac surgical repair.

Thanks to technology like echocardiography, children with congenital heart problems are being diagnosed earlier and interventions are being performed earlier. This results in more survivors of problems that used to take lives and quality of life.

The University of Florida Pediatric Cardiovascular Center, a partnership between Wolfson Children's Hospital and the University of Florida/Jacksonville, offers diagnosis and treatment of infants, children and young adults with congenital and acquired heart disease. The joint program, which performed more than 6,000 echocardiograms in the past year, recently received accreditation from the Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL).

The Cardiovascular Center's two echocardiography laboratories – the inpatient lab located at Wolfson Children's Hospital and the outpatient lab located at 1443 San Marco Blvd. – are among less than 20 pediatric labs in the United States to have achieved accreditation in three modalities: pediatric transthoracic, pediatric transesophageal and fetal echocardiography. The center was the first in Florida to accomplish this.

The ICAEL was established with the support of the American Society of Echocardiography, the American College of Cardiology and the Society of Pediatric Echocardiography to provide a peer review mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality echocardiographic diagnostic evaluations by a process of voluntary accreditation. Accreditation status signifies that the facility has been reviewed by an independent agency, which recognizes the laboratory's commitment to quality testing for the diagnosis of heart disease.

“Because of our commitment to excellence in imaging and accurate diagnosis, we voluntarily submitted our laboratories for the accreditation process,” said Jose Ettegui, MD, medical director of the University of Florida Pediatric Cardiovascular Center. “We are proud that the center has been recognized with accreditation in all three modalities. It affirms the quality of our program.”

###

Baptist Health is a faith-based, mission-driven system comprised of Baptist Medical Center Downtown, Baptist Heart Hospital, Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Baptist Medical Center Nassau; Baptist Medical Center South and Wolfson Children’s Hospital - Jacksonville’s only children’s hospital. Baptist Health also includes cardiology and cardiovascular surgery services, a comprehensive cancer center, orthopaedic institute, women’s resource center, a full range of psychology and psychiatry services, outpatient facilities and a network of primary care physicians’ offices throughout Northeast Florida. Baptist Health is the official healthcare provider for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

For more information, visit www.e-baptisthealth.com