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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mercy Hospital Receives American College of Cardiology Award *Recognizes Quality Care for Heart Attack Patients***

**Buffalo, NY**— For the second year in a row, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, has received the American College of Cardiology’s NCDR ACTION Registry–GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award for 2017. Mercy Hospital is one of only 193 hospitals nationwide to receive the honor.

The award recognizes Mercy’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that the Heart Center team has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations.

To receive the ACTION Registry–GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award, Mercy Hospital consistently followed the treatment guidelines in the ACTION Registry–GWTG Premier for eight consecutive quarters and has performed at the top level of standards for specific performance measures. Full participation in the registry engages hospitals in a robust quality improvement process using data to drive improvements in adherence to guideline recommendations and overall quality of care provided to heart attack patients.

“As a Platinum Performance Award recipient, Mercy Hospital demonstrates our commitment to the highest quality of care for our heart attack patients,” said Aravind Herle, MD, Chief of Cardiology at Mercy Hospital. “By meeting the requirements set forth in the registry and following nationally-recognized guidelines for therapy, the Heart Center at Mercy Hospital is saving lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients.”

The Center for Disease Control estimates that over 700,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. A heart attack occurs when a blood clot in a coronary artery partially or completely blocks blood flow to the heart muscle. Treatment guidelines include administering aspirin upon arrival and discharge, timely restoration of blood flow to the blocked artery, smoking cessation counseling and cardiac rehabilitation, among others.

ACTION Registry–GWTG is a partnership between the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association with partnering support from the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. ACTION Registry-GWTG empowers health care provider teams to consistently treat heart attack patients according to the most current, science-based guidelines and establishes a national standard for understanding and improving the quality, safety and outcomes of care provided for patients with coronary artery disease, specifically high-risk heart attack patients.

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**Mercy Hospital of Buffalo**, part of Catholic Health, is one of the largest and busiest hospitals in Western New York. The 389-bed acute care hospital is home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, providing a full range of cardiac care services, including heart surgery, cardiac catheterization and other minimally-invasive cardiology procedures. It is also the area's only Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with capabilities to treat the most complex stroke cases. Mercy was named one of America's Top 50 Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery in 2015 and Top 100 Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery in 2016 by HealthGrades®. The hospital is also home to a state-of-the-art Emergency Center and Family BirthPlace, featuring a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Mercy also offers a wide array of outpatient, primary care, diagnostic and rehabilitation services at convenient locations throughout the area, including 24/7 emergency care at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park. Founded over 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with an ongoing Catholic Health mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need. For more information, visit [chsbuffalo.org](http://chsbuffalo.org).

**The American College of Cardiology** is a 52,000-member medical society that is the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College operates national registries to measure and improve care, offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions, provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research and bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet stringent qualifications. For more information, visit [acc.org](http://acc.org).

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