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For Immediate Release

OVERLOOK HOSPITAL AND DR. JOHN CUNNINGHAM RECEIVE HIGHEST NATIONAL HONORS FROM AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS' COMMISSION ON CANCER

Summit, NJ, October 19, 2007 – Atlantic Health's Overlook Hospital received the highest honor, *Three-Year Approval with Commendation*, bestowed by the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer (CoC) for its cancer program. *Three-Year with Commendation* is given to programs, either new or established, that comply with all standards and receive a commendation rating for one or more standard. A certificate of approval is issued and these programs are surveyed at a three-year interval from the date of the survey.

"Overlook Hospital has joined an elite group of medical institutions with this Approval and recognition," said Alan Lieber, chief operating officer, Overlook Hospital. "We are proud to offer our community such a high level of comprehensive cancer care."

The CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care.

Applying for and maintaining CoC Approval is a voluntary commitment by a cancer program that ensures its patients will have access to the full scope of services required to diagnose, treat, rehabilitate, and support patients with cancer and their families. A cancer program is able to continually evaluate its performance and take proactive corrective action when necessary. This continuous evaluation reaffirms the commitment of the program to provide quality cancer care.

Approved programs receive notable benefits from the CoC that enhance their cancer program. These include:

- **National Recognition:** CoC Approval is nationally recognized by organizations such as the JCAHO, American Cancer Society, Aetna, CMS, NQF and the National Cancer Institute as having established performance measures for the provision of high-quality cancer care.
- **Organized Care:** The CoC offers cancer programs an organizational model for the delivery of comprehensive, multidisciplinary cancer care.

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T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

- Quality Improvement Measures: Participation in the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) and access to Comparison Benchmark Reports and other resource tools enable Commission-approved programs to compare their quality of care and improve performance based on nationally recognized quality measures and standards of care.
- Data Analysis: Participation in CoC special studies that are developed to address important issues in cancer care.
- Public Awareness: Free promotion and national exposure are available to approved programs through CoC marketing efforts, the American Cancer Society's Hospital Locator, select payers, and organizations promulgating patient information about where to receive quality cancer care.

For the Patient and Community, the quality standards established by the CoC for cancer programs ensure:

- Comprehensive care including a complete range of state-of-the-art services and equipment
- A multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best available treatment options
- Information about ongoing cancer clinical trials and new treatment options
- Access to prevention and early detection programs, cancer education, and support services
- A cancer registry that offers lifelong patient follow-up
- Ongoing monitoring and improvements in cancer care AND
- Quality care, close to home

Overlook Hospital's John D. Cunningham, MD, FACS, surgical oncologist, was one of 55 physicians nationally to receive the "Cancer Liaison Physician Outstanding Performance Award" from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. Dr. Cunningham is charged with improving clinical care at the local level, collaborating with local agencies to reduce the burden of cancer in the community, and spearheading CoC initiatives, such as quality improvement studies. Established more than 40 years ago, the Cancer Liaison Program consists of a network of 1600 physician volunteers leading CoC initiatives.

Dr. Cunningham was nominated for excellence in the following areas: improving the quality of care delivered at Overlook Hospital; contributing to the Three-Year Approval with Commendation status for Overlook's Cancer Program; exceeding Cancer Liaison Physician expectations to strengthen the Overlook Cancer Program; demonstrating cancer control leadership in the community; and serving as a champion and role model for other staff.

"Dr. Cunningham is recognized with the *Cancer Liaison Physician Outstanding Performance Award* for going above and beyond the regular scope of his duties," said Jon Greif, DO, FACS, chair, Committee on Cancer Liaison. "Overlook Hospital and its local community should be proud to have Dr. Cunningham as part their Cancer Program."

Part of Atlantic Health, atlantichealth.org, Overlook Hospital is a 504-bed not-for-profit community teaching hospital located in Summit, NJ with more than 1,200 attending physicians. Overlook provides adult and pediatric emergency care, with specialties in emergency cardiac angioplasty and stroke response. Overlook's Neuroscience Institute is the State's leader in stroke and brain tumor treatments as the primary provider of the revolutionary Mercic® Retriever and CyberKnife®. Overlook Hospital is the first State-designated Comprehensive Stroke Center, and has a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence, a Minimally Invasive Surgery Program, and Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center. Other areas of expertise include dedicated centers for women's health, concussion management, epilepsy, memory disorders and brain tumors, pain

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management, diabetes, wound healing and hyperbaric medicine. Overlook offers state-of-the-art maternity and baby services, with private, customized care and a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staffed with the largest pediatric surgery group in New Jersey.

Overlook Hospital is a research Partner with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and is accredited by The Joint Commission. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.

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