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## For Immediate Release

### **GAGNON CORONARY CARE UNIT WINS BEACON AWARD NATIONAL AWARD HONORS UNIT FOR CRITICAL CARE EXCELLENCE**

**MORRISTOWN, NJ APRIL 27, 2009** – The Coronary Care Unit at Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute in Morristown, NJ, is proud to announce that it has received the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence, an award given by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The award is specifically designated to recognize the nation's top pediatric, progressive, and adult critical care units across a multitude of hospitals. The recognition represents extraordinary commitment to high-quality critical care standards, and dedication to the exceptional care of patients and their families.

“Every day, nurses in Gagnon’s intensely critical Coronary Care Unit demonstrate a unique ability to provide quality care for our patients, and also for their families,” said Roberta Prisco, RN, BSN, CCRN, manager of the Coronary Care Unit. “We are proud to receive national recognition from the AACN, and will use this distinction and the resources provided to further advance ourselves and continue to provide the latest technology and trials available for our patients.”

The Coronary Care Unit moved from Morristown Memorial Hospital into the new Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute when the new building opened on Morristown Memorial’s campus in January. The unit is patient- and family-centered with 10 private rooms, all equipped with the latest technology and treatment tools to care for the most critically ill cardiac patients. The Coronary Care Unit recently adopted a hypothermia protocol, where specialized nursing teams use cooling technology for patients who suffer cardiac arrest to help prevent brain damage.

Beacon Award criteria include innovation/excellence in recruitment and retention, education, training and mentoring, evidence-based practice and research, patient outcomes, creating and promoting healing environments, and leadership and organization ethnics. The Beacon Award is presented twice yearly. This is the first time the Cardiac Critical Care Unit has won the Beacon Award. Morristown Memorial’s Intensive Care Unit is a three-time recipient. There are an estimated 6,000 Critical Care Units in the United States, and only 132 of these units have been recognized for excellence by this award.

#### **About AACN**

*The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world, representing the interests of more than 500,000 acute and critical care nurses. Its international headquarters are located in Aliso Viejo, California. Founded in 1969, the Association has more than 240 chapters worldwide and is working toward a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and their families, where acute and critical care nurses make their optimal contribution.*

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