



**For Immediate Release**

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## **New, high-tech PET scanner open at Christiana Care allows daily testing**

### **Pet scanner at Christiana Hospital enhances cancer and cardiac care**

Wilmington, DE (January 22, 2004) - A new, dedicated Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner now open at Christiana Hospital enhances diagnostic capabilities for Christiana Care cancer and heart patients. Most Christiana Care patients referred for PET scans are being treated for cancer-related problems. But, "the new PET scanner also reaffirms our position as a leading provider of heart care," according to Paula L. Stillman, M.D., MBA, senior vice president for Special Projects and interim medical director of Christiana Care's Center for Heart & Vascular Health.

"This new diagnostic tool greatly improves our ability to care for people who have heart damage from a prior heart attack, or who have had prior bypasses or angioplasty," says Vidya Sagar, M.D., medical director of Christiana Care's Nuclear Medicine services. "For patients with a history of heart disease it is crucial to determine how much viable heart muscle remains in order to plan additional interventions or even refer patients for heart transplant if that is indicated," Sagar explains.

The PET scanner also provides one of the most technologically advanced methods for staging and restaging cancer, especially colorectal and head and neck cancers when images created at the biological, or cellular level, are fused with anatomic images from CT scans and MRIs. "When PET is fused with anatomical images from an MRI or CT scan, we can produce the most accurate diagnostic imaging available," Sagar says.

The PET scanner is in suite 1439 at Christiana Hospital. The mobile scanner, previously available two days a week at Christiana Care, will be phased out in January. Patients may be scheduled for PET scans by calling the new centralized scheduling line at Christiana Care's Center for Heart & Vascular Health, at 733-4600.

Christiana Care Health System, which traces its roots back to 1888, is one of the region's largest not-for profit health care providers, serving the people of Delaware as well as neighboring Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, long-term and transitional

care services and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services. Last year, Christiana Care provided more than \$37 million of charity care.