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Christiana Care Health System Receives \$1 Million Gift to Propel Head and Neck Cancer Care and Research

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Feb. 1) The Bacchieri Family Fund has given Christiana Care Health System \$1 million for multidisciplinary care and innovative research to stem the growing incidences of head and neck cancer in Delaware and the United States.

The gift, from Gregg Bacchieri and his wife Stacey, of Kennett Square, Penn., to the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute’s Head and Neck Cancer Multidisciplinary Center will support clinical care delivery and clinical trials for cancers of the head and neck at Christiana Care.

Three years ago, Gregg Bacchieri was diagnosed with throat cancer at the Graham Cancer Center. He has received life-saving treatment under the care of Adam Raben, M.D., chair of Radiation Oncology, surgeon Neil G. Hockstein, M.D., of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and medical oncologist Charles J. Schneider, M.D., FACP.

“Dr. Raben and the team are outstanding. I’ve received excellent care and attention from the moment I was diagnosed,” said Bacchieri, a retired senior executive with MBNA banking corporation. “Stacey and I wanted to show our family’s gratitude to the health system and hope this gift will springboard future philanthropic investments in important research.”

Nationwide, according the National Cancer Institute, cancers of the head and neck account for approximately three percent of all cancers. They are nearly twice as common among men as among women. Also, an alarming rise in rates of cancer of the mouth and throat is driving urgency for research into new clinical protocols and treatments.

“Research is a cornerstone in the value and partnership that Christiana Care provides to the people we serve,” said Nicholas J. Petrelli, M.D., FACS, Bank of America endowed medical director of the Graham Cancer Center. “Gregg and Stacey’s generous support will help us to pursue promising curative therapies by moving innovative approaches from the lab to the clinic.”

Annually, the nationally recognized Head and Neck Cancer Multidisciplinary Center at Christiana Care sees more than 90 percent of new head and neck cancer cases in Delaware. The Multidisciplinary Center model brings together clinicians and researchers from different specialties to create targeted treatment plans for each patient. As part of

Graham Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program, which brings cancer clinical trials and care delivery research to patients in their own communities, the Head and Neck Multidisciplinary Center offers access to state-of-the-art clinical studies for early and advanced stage cancer.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care systems, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. The health system includes The Medical Group of Christiana Care, a network of primary care physicians, medical and surgical specialists as well as home health care, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services and patient/family advisors for core health care services. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care has an extensive range of outpatient services, and through Christiana Care Quality Partners, Christiana Care works closely with its medical staff to achieve better health, better access to care and lower cost. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers this highest level of care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds. For more information about Christiana Care, visit <https://christianacare.org/about/whoweare/www.christianacare.org/whoweare>.