



American Association of Eye & Ear Centers of Excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Six AAEECE Members Honored Among 2011 Best U.S. Hospitals

Arlington, VA (August 3, 2011) — Six member facilities of the American Association of Eye and Ear Centers of Excellence (AAEECE) were ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” in the fields of ophthalmology and otolaryngology by *U.S. News & World Report*. The rankings, annually published for the past 22 years, will also be featured in the U.S. News Best Hospitals guidebook, which will go on sale August 30.

In the specialty of ophthalmology, AAEECE member Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami received the top ranking. Other AAEECE members awarded distinction include: Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, ranked second; the Wills Eye Hospital of Philadelphia ranked third; the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, ranked fourth; the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary ranked 8th; and the Emory Eye Institute, Atlanta, Georgia ranked 15th.

In the specialty of otolaryngology, AAEECE member Johns Hopkins Hospital ranked first; the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary ranked fourth.

Johns Hopkins Hospital was also listed as the best hospital overall in the U.S. by garnering the most points in 15 specialties. This is the 20th consecutive year that Johns Hopkins Hospital was awarded the honor of America's best overall hospital. Additionally, Massachusetts General Hospital, affiliated with Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, was ranked the second best U.S. hospital.

“The 2011 rankings from *U.S. News and World Report* once again testify that AAEECE member institutions are consistently among the top health care providers in the country,” said AAEECE President and CEO, Robert Betz, Ph.D. “Our facilities are centers of excellence in their specialties and subspecialties ... consistently, our members provide some of the best and most cost-effective care in the U.S.”

The standards for ranking the “Best Hospitals” are rigorous. Of the total 5000 U.S. medical

centers screened, just 17 hospitals made the Honor Roll, which is a list reserved for centers with very high rankings in a minimum of six specialties.

For this survey, approximately 10,000 physicians were surveyed to name five hospitals they consider among the best in their specialty for difficult cases, without taking into account cost or location. For more information on the report, including full rankings, please visit <http://health.usnews.com> .

The AAEECE is comprised of the premier institutions for specialized eye and ear procedures. These centers of excellence offer some of the most innovative teaching programs in the world, routinely treat the most severely ill eye and ear patients, and provide highly specialized services not available in general acute care hospitals.