



Healthcare Association
of New York State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 25, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION
RANA HUBER
(518) 431-7762

**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES HANY'S
2009 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AWARD**

*Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester and Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center/New
York City Health and Hospitals Corporation Each Earn Honorable Mention*

ALBANY, N.Y. – The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANY) presented its 2009 Community Health Improvement Award to University of Rochester Medical Center for its Health-e-Access (HeA) Telemedicine Network.

HANY established the Community Health Improvement Award in 1997 to recognize outstanding initiatives that improve community health and well-being. The award is presented to facilities and programs that target specific community health issues, demonstrate leadership, collaborate, create partnerships among diverse groups, and achieve quantifiable results.

The HeA program has provided telemedicine care and service to children in 23 sites including child-care programs, elementary schools, and a program for severely developmentally disabled children. To date, more than 7,000 telemedicine visits have taken place among children in child-care centers and schools. Ten different physician practices are participating in this initiative, including more than 50 clinicians. 96% of telemedicine visits were successfully completed at the child site, and did not require a follow-up referral to a primary care practice or emergency department. In city child-care centers, absence due to illness dropped by 63% following the introduction of Health-e-Access. In a six-year study, emergency department use was 22% less for children with telemedicine access.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

HANYS also presented an Honorable Mention Award to Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester's Diabetes Outpatient Education Program. This initiative teaches adults with type 1, type 2, or gestational diabetes about their disease and the necessary steps to improve their health. The program enables patients to develop skills for successful self-management, thus delaying or preventing long-term complications associated with uncontrolled diabetes. In 2008, 197 patients (excluding women with gestational diabetes) entered the program; 146 of these patients received initial/comprehensive education and 83.7% of them completed their three-month follow-up assessment. Patients who completed the program lost 697 pounds, collectively.

A second Honorable Mention Award was given to the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center/New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation Geriatric Outreach Program that partners with 36 community-based senior citizen centers and senior housing developments to provide health education, prevention, and psycho-social support services to the elderly. In 2008, the Geriatric Outreach Program provided 199 health screenings, reaching 4,852 seniors. It also provided 133 educational events, reaching 5,129 seniors. In addition, behavioral health focus groups reached 443 seniors in 50 separate events and 301 home assessments were provided to at-risk seniors.

HANYS President Daniel Sisto said, "New York's hospitals and health care providers are continually identifying and addressing community health needs through innovative programs and services like these. This year's awardees were selected from a field of hundreds of similar proactive community health initiatives underway in every community in the state, which collectively represent the tireless commitment providers have to improving the health and well being of their communities."

The awards were announced, Wednesday, June 24 at HANYS' 41st Annual Membership Conference in Lake George.

HANYS, the only statewide hospital and continuing care association in New York State, represents more than 550 non-profit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care organizations.