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For Additional Information:
Jennifer Franklin, Marketing
(910) 892-1000, ext. 4960
jfranklin@bjrh.org

Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital's Laboratory is Selected to be a Hematology Referee for Cell Identification.

Dunn, N.C. (March 19, 2007) – The College of American Pathologists (CAP) recently selected the Laboratory at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital (BJRH) to be a hematology referee for cell identification. With over 5,000 laboratories participating in the proficiency testing program, BJRH was one of only 25 who were chosen for this esteemed commission.

“The Laboratory is honored to be chosen as a referee for Hematology in the CAP’s proficiency testing program, said William A. Ballance, Jr., MD, Medical Laboratory Director. “The Laboratory’s approach to quality patient care is demonstrated by this national recognition as a participant in this program.”

The purpose of the College of American Pathologists' Surveys Clinical Microscopy/Blood Cell Identification Referee program is so that highly qualified laboratories can review large numbers of provisional photomicrographs that may be used for CAP Surveys in future years. Via the Surveys Program, the CAP offers the widest array of proficiency testing and educational solutions to promote laboratory performance improvement through an educational peer-comparison program.

Referee laboratories are selected from existing participants in the CAP Surveys program. To be selected as a Clinical Microscopy/Blood Cell Identification Referee, the laboratory must have perfectly identified all graded photomicrographs for at least one year. Once that criteria is met, geographic location and laboratory type are also considered, so that the entire program has a broad representation.

All Referee labs must submit answers for several dozen blood cell identification or clinical microscopy images in a timely manner. To continue be eligible for re-appointment, Referee laboratories must demonstrate consistent perfect performance on graded cell identification proficiency testing.

Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital, a 101-bed private not-for-profit hospital based in Dunn, North Carolina, offers primary, specialty and emergency care services to Harnett, Cumberland, Johnston, and Sampson County residents. Serving patients since 1940, the hospital has over 100 affiliated physicians and 700 employees. For more information, please visit our website at www.bjrh.org

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