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23 GHSU physicians named to inaugural Top Doctors list

AUGUSTA, GA – More than 20 Georgia Health Sciences University physicians, including University President Dr. Ricardo Azziz, are included in the inaugural list of U.S. News Top Doctors unveiled today by U.S. News Media Group. U.S. News Top Doctors is a free, searchable directory that lists nearly 30,000 physicians across the country recognized by their peers as the best in their fields.

The first 18 of the 23 GHSU physicians on the list also are ranked in the top 1 percent in their specialty in the nation in the 10th edition of Castle Connolly's *America's Top Doctors* book, a national patient reference guide.

Additionally, Georgia Health Sciences Health System (formerly MCG Health System) was ranked as high-performing in the U.S. News Best Hospitals report in Gynecology, Nephrology and Diabetes and Endocrinology.

"Georgia Health Sciences University is where tens of thousands of doctors say they would take their own family members for treatment. We have excellent physicians and services," said David S. Hefner, Executive Vice President for Clinical Affairs and CEO of Georgia Health Sciences Medical Center. "We are extremely humbled by this recognition; yet, these achievements speak volumes about the quality, safety and expertise we deliver every day."

The 23 GHSU physicians named to the inaugural U.S. News Top Doctors list are:

1. Dr. Ricardo Azziz, Reproductive Endocrinologist and Surgeon
2. Dr. Sharad A. Ghamande, Gynecologic Oncologist
3. Dr. David C. Hess, Neurologist
4. Dr. Anand P. Jillella, Medical Oncologist
5. Dr. David Scott Lind, Surgical Oncologist
6. Dr. Bruce V. MacFadyen, Surgeon
7. Dr. D. Douglas Miller, Cardiologist
8. Dr. Walter J. Moore, Rheumatologist
9. Dr. Ana A. Murphy, Reproductive Endocrinologist
10. Dr. Julian J. Nussbaum, Ophthalmologist
11. Dr. Dennis R. Ownby, Pediatric Allergist-Immunologist
12. Dr. Gregory N. Postma, ENT-Otolaryngologist
13. Dr. Kapil D. Sethi, Neurologist
14. **Dr. Sandra G. B. Sexson, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist**
15. Dr. Robert A. Sorrentino, Cardiac Electrophysiologist
16. Dr. David J. Terris, ENT-Otolaryngologist
17. Dr. Martha K. Terris, Urologist

18. Dr. Jack C. Yu, Plastic Surgeon
19. Dr. Oscar Ballester, Hematologist
20. Dr. Parag Gokhale, Ophthalmologist
21. Dr. Stilianos Kountakis, ENT-Otolaryngologist
22. Dr. Brian McKinnon, ENT-Otolaryngologist
23. Dr. Harold Szerlip, Nephrologist

U.S. News Top Doctors was created in collaboration with Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., publisher of America's Top Doctors and other consumer health guides. It draws from Castle Connolly's database of Top Doctors, all recommended for their clinical skills by other doctors and individually vetted by a physician-led research team. Consumers can search for a top doctor by location, hospital affiliation and a full range of specialties and subspecialties.

U.S. News Top Doctors builds on the Best Hospitals rankings, which U.S. News updated last week. Health consumers can now see which Top Doctors practice at the 700-plus hospitals in the 22nd annual rankings by visiting www.usnews.com/best-hospitals. For more information on U.S. News rankings of top physicians, visit www.usnews.com/top-doctors.

"For decades, the Best Hospitals rankings have helped guide patients who need an especially high level of care to hospitals that excel in providing it," said Avery Comarow, U.S. News Health Rankings Editor. "Top Doctors has a similar mission. We want to help consumers find the doctors in their area who come highly recommended by other physicians."

"We believe this brings important information on excellent physicians directly into the hands of consumers," said Dr. John J. Connolly, President and CEO of Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. "Given the unsettled future of the delivery and financing of health care and the changing nature of physician practices, it is critical that consumers have trusted sources of high-quality information about both doctors and hospitals."