

## **Russell Medical Center Named One of the Nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Thomson Reuters**

Russell Medical Center was Monday named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by Thompson Reuters, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals.

The winning hospitals were announced in the March 28 edition of Modern Healthcare magazine. RMC President and CEO Jim Peace held a press conference at the hospital Monday to share the news with a packed room that included RMC staff and city officials.

"It's seldom that great things happen to an organization, but today is one of those days," Peace said. "It's a great thing for Russell Medical Center. It's not only for Russell Medical Center, but it's a great thing for our community. It's a great thing for the leadership within our community. It's a great thing for economic development within our community. It speaks volumes about the type of people that live and breathe and work within our community."

In addition to the 100 Top Hospitals distinction, RMC was also named as an Everest Award recipient for 2011. This prestigious award honors hospitals that have achieved the highest current performance and fastest long-term improvement over five years.

"We're one hospital out of only six in the nation that were recognized for that award this year," Peace announced.

To conduct the 100 Top Hospitals study, Thomson Reuters researchers evaluated 2,914 short-term, acute care, non-federal hospitals. They used public information, such as Medicare cost reports, Medicare Provider Analysis and Review data and core measures and patient satisfaction data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Hospital Compare website.

The study evaluates performance in 10 areas: mortality; medical complications; patient safety; average patient stay; expenses; profitability; patient satisfaction; adherence to clinical standards of care; post-discharge mortality; and readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure and pneumonia.

Hospitals do not apply, and winners do not pay to market this honor. The study has been conducted annually since 1993 and this is the first year RMC has been recognized with the honor.

"This year's 100 Top Hospitals award winners have delivered exemplary results, despite volatility from healthcare reform," Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president at Thomson Reuters, said in a press release. "The leadership teams at these organizations have dealt with enormous ambiguity, yet remained focused on mission and excellence across the hospital which drove national benchmarks to new highs."

Don McClellan, executive director of the Lake Martin Area Economic Development Alliance, called the recognition by Thomson Reuters "a great tool for economic development."

"Medical costs are always a big factor," McClellan said. "To have the best at a low cost – how can you beat that? We've always known Russell Medical Center was good. This just proves it."

Mayor Barbara Young said she was proud of RMC for the service they provide and said they deserve to receive such recognition.

"This is a crown jewel in our community," Young said. "I've watched it grow since it was in its original location, where my children were born, to continually improving its quality throughout its growth."

Peace thanked RMC's board of directors, medical staff and employees during his announcement of the recognition, and thanked all of those in attendance at Monday's event.

"I thank, obviously, all our city officials and county officials and EDA officials for coming out today," Peace said. "It shows again the reason this hospital is what it is, because it has the kind of people it has living in this community ... it's a proud day and we're very honored to be receiving this award."