



MEDIA RELEASE

Megan Allen
Navicent Health
478.633.1527
Allen.Megan@NavicentHealth.org

Erin Stewart
Georgia Hospital Association
770.249.4513
estewart@gha.org

Children's Hospital, Navicent Health Pediatric Intensivist Lowell Clark, M.D. Wins Statewide Lifetime Achievement Award

ATLANTA (Monday, November 23, 2015) – Children's Hospital, Navicent Health Pediatric Intensivist Lowell Clark M.D., was awarded the prestigious *Georgia Hospital Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award* at the Georgia Hospital Association's (GHA) annual meeting on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Dr. Clark, who was the only individual statewide to receive the award, was recognized for his work in transforming pediatric patients care statewide over the past 37 years.

Dr. Clark began his career as the second pediatrician hired by Macon's Navicent Health in 1978. When he began working at the hospital, it had a small neonatal intensive care unit while pediatric patients shared a ward with adult patients or were placed in the adult ICU. In 1987, Dr. Clark, along with 23 other local pediatricians, signed a charter dedicating The Children's Hospital, creating a hospital for pediatric patients throughout central and south Georgia designated for children that was not shared with adult patients.

In 1991, Dr. Clark led the effort to establish a separate pediatric ICU at the hospital, currently the only one serving central and south Georgia. The number of admissions has grown from less than 100 in 1991 to an average of 1,200 annually. To handle this growth, Dr. Clark recruited four additional intensivists over the years. A few years later, Dr. Clark further enhanced pediatric care with his development of the Children's Hospital Outpatient Services (CHOPS), which provides health services to infants, children and adolescents, including sedation for MRIs and CTs, blood transfusions and intravenous transfusions.

In 1997, Dr. Clark was instrumental in establishing Crescent House, Navicent Health – one of the first advocacy centers in the state designed to meet the needs of children who are victims of suspected abuse. Since its opening, more than 10,000 children have received evaluations, care and support following allegations of abuse.

Dr. Clark has also been instrumental in establishing Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training programs throughout the state, as well as a pediatric critical care transport team that responds specifically to pediatric patients in need of acute care.

"I have often heard it said that greatness is determined by your service to others. If this is true, then Dr. Clark may very well be the greatest man that we have ever had the privilege of knowing and working with. He will never know the full magnitude of his work, and the impact that his life's service has had on others. He has dedicated his life to caring for children and their families, and his career exemplifies compassion and excellence. I can think of no one more worthy of a lifetime achievement award than Dr. Lowell Clark," said Dr. Ninfa M. Saunders, President and CEO of Navicent Health.

Dr. Clark is not only active in the continued development of the programs that he has helped to establish, but he also works full time as an intensivist. He makes time to connect with patients and families, stressing the importance of face-to-face interaction. He is known for spending hours at the bedside, making sure his patients have what they need to help them recover as quickly as possible. He is a mentor to many doctors and nurses at the hospital, several of whom state that they would not be the caregiver they are today without the training and support of Dr. Clark.

“Dr. Clark is a remarkable physician whose outstanding dedication to pediatric care has changed the lives of innumerable pediatric patients and their families. His work has had a far-reaching impact on his community and throughout the state. He is an extraordinary role model for all of us and is a most-deserving recipient of this award,” said GHA President Earl Rogers.

About Navicent Health

Navicent Health was incorporated on November 17, 1994, as a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to coordinate the Medical Center, Navicent Health and other affiliated entities in their mission of providing a comprehensive continuum of high quality, reasonably priced healthcare services to the region. Navicent Health has 830 beds for medical, surgical, rehabilitation and hospice purposes. The health system includes Medical Center, Navicent Health, a nationally recognized tertiary teaching hospital; Children’s Hospital, Navicent Health, the region’s only dedicated pediatric hospital; Medical Center of Peach County, Navicent Health, a rural critical access hospital; Rehabilitation Hospital, Navicent Health, the region’s oldest and most experienced rehabilitation provider; Pine Pointe Hospice, Navicent Health, which provides palliative and hospice care in homes and in its facility; Carlyle Place, Navicent Health, the area’s first continuing care retirement community; Navicent Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Navicent Health; as well as diagnostic and home care services.

About GHA

Established in 1929, GHA is the state’s largest trade organization of hospitals and health systems providing education, research and risk management services to its more than 170 hospital and health system members. Additionally, it represents and advocates health policy issues benefiting Georgia’s citizens before the state legislature and U.S. Congress as well as before regulatory bodies.

###