HERSHEY, PA—Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is among the nation's top neuroscience programs, and designated as a Neuroscience Center of Excellence (COE), according to the 2006 Neuroscience Center of Excellence Survey, co-sponsored by NeuroSource, Inc., Chicago, IL and HealthTech, San Francisco, CA.

The 2006 survey, the only one of its kind in the neurosciences, analyzed 150 neuroscience programs, across 41 states. A hospital's overall performance is determined by measuring program progress in four key areas: Clinical and Research Programs, Staff, Facilities & Technology, and Business.

2006 marks the third annual year for the Neuroscience COE Survey. The annual assessment evaluated 150 hospital-based programs, and only 42 percent of those programs received sufficient scores to be recognized as a 2006 Neuroscience Center of Excellence.

“Center of Excellence designees represent many of the leading, innovative programs across the country, and Penn State Hershey Medical Center is proud to be acknowledged for our collaborative, multidisciplinary approach and commitment to the highest standards of neurological and neurosurgical patient care, education and research,” said Robert E. Harbaugh, M.D., F.A.C.S., chair, Department of Neurosurgery.

David C. Good, M.D., chair, Department of Neurology, commented, “The survey findings underscore the importance of our multi-specialty approach. Our mission is to assure excellence in the care of patients with neurological and neurobehavioral diseases and disorders, excellence in teaching in the clinical neurosciences and excellence in translational and clinical neuroscience research.”

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center was founded in 1963 through a gift from The Milton S. Hershey Foundation. Located in Hershey, Pa., Penn State Hershey Medical Center is a 500-bed teaching and research hospital. Its campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State University’s medical school) and Penn State Children’s Hospital—the south central Pennsylvania region’s only children’s hospital.