

For Immediate Release:
April 2, 2002

For More Information:
Linda McGinity Jackson, *Jewish Hospital*
(502) 587-4603
Mary Jennings, *Jewish Hospital*
(502) 587-4230
Kathy Keadle, *University of Louisville*
(502) 852-7504

ABIOCOR RECIPIENT AND HEART SURGEONS STEPPING OUT FOR LUNCH AT Z'S

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - Tom Christerson, the world's second recipient and longest living AbioCor™ Implantable Replacement Heart patient will enjoy lunch with his physicians, University of Louisville surgeons Laman Gray, M.D. and Rob Dowling, M.D., Wednesday. The luncheon is scheduled from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at Z's Oyster Bar & Steak House located at 101 Whittington Parkway.

Also joining Christerson and his physicians is Governor Paul Patton. Christerson looks forward to seeing the Governor again. Their first meeting came just 12 days following Christerson's landmark procedure at Jewish Hospital in September. "I am sure he will be amazed at how far I have come since his last visit," said Christerson. Christerson continues to attend physical therapy at Frazier Rehab Institute to gain strength and has enjoyed visiting other sites around Louisville.

Christerson will be available to answer questions from the media along with Drs. Gray and Dowling who will give an update on his progress.

Christerson received his artificial heart September 13, 2001, in a landmark surgery at Jewish Hospital performed by doctors Gray and Dowling. Christerson was released from the hospital March 20, and has been staying at The Inn at Jewish Hospital. The AbioCor Implantable Replacement Heart is manufactured by ABIOMED, Inc., of Danvers, Mass.

Jewish Hospital is among the top ten cardiac centers in the United States and, along with the UofL, is dedicated to excellence, research and education. University of Louisville surgeons at Jewish Hospital have performed many heart care "firsts," including Kentucky's first heart transplant, the world's first heart transplant following the use of a Thoratec bi-ventricular assist device, the world's first endoscopic saphenous vein harvest and the first ventricular remodeling in the region.

Photo and interview opportunity available.

###

