**For Immediate Release**

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**Nurses and Techs at Wills Eye Hospital Ratify 3-Year Contract**

**Philadelphia, PA—**One hundred and twenty nurses and techs at Wills Eye Hospital voted overwhelmingly yesterday to ratify a 3-year agreement representing significant gains in their contract with the nationally renowned Center City eye hospital. Ratified just behind a pair of trailblazing nurses’ contracts at Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol and Suburban Community Hospital in Norristown, the deal between Wills Eye and the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professions was the third contract the 8,500- member union won this week.

*“We are living in a time of great and prolonged stress for nurses and healthcare professionals,” says PASNAP President Maureen May, R.N. “In the positive resolution of these contract fights, the needs of our frontline workers have been respected and their patient communities further protected. We are thrilled.”*

The Wills Eye Hospital contract provides wage increases every year along with experience-based pay increases, a first for their technical staff. Nurses and technical staff will see their wages increase between 4 and 6 percent this January, with a large portion of that increase being immediately retroactive to January of 2020.

The agreement also provides for an expansion of paid time off for nurses and techs who work throughout the night as a result of taking care of trauma patients and who otherwise might not have enough time off prior to the start of their next regular shift.

Christine Burke, R.N., an Operating Room nurse of 30 years, said: “Expanded time off for nurses who work on emergencies through the night is recognition of the demanding work we do and a well-deserved achievement. We are thrilled we were able to come to an agreement with Wills Eye management that provides the respect the dedicated staff of Wills Eye Hospital deserve.”

Katelynn Royston, a Medical Assistant of eight years, agreed. “Pay for experience is about respect,” she said. “It’s a key issue for the retention of seasoned medical staff and a win not just for healthcare professionals but for their patients as well. I am very grateful to Wills Eye management for the agreement. We look forward to our future growth!”

The Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals represents 8,500 nurses and healthcare professionals across the Commonwealth.