



#### MORE INFORMATION

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## COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AMONG TOP 10 IN NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH FUNDING

COLUMBUS, OH, November 16, 2006 —

The recently released National Institutes of Health (NIH) 2005 funding report indicates substantial research support in Central Ohio, including Columbus Children's Research Institute at Columbus Children's Hospital. NIH funding is considered the most robust measure of research capacity and expertise for universities, medical schools, research centers and hospitals.

In NIH fiscal year 2005, Columbus Children's Research Institute received \$18.1 million in NIH funding, placing it ninth among 22 ranked free-standing children's hospitals in the United States.

"Because of vigorous investment in research capital, our talented investigators, and operations, Columbus Children's Research Institute has been one of the fastest growing pediatric research centers in the U.S. in recent years," said John Barnard, MD, president, Columbus Children's Research Institute and Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. "These investments have positioned Columbus Children's to continue a positive growth trajectory in vital research benefiting children in Central Ohio and beyond. Our strategic plan will expand the research capacity at Children's by adding improved infrastructure and more laboratory and collaborative research space through a third building and a new clinical research center."

Columbus Children's Research Institute is comprised of 12 Centers of Emphasis. Examples of current NIH-funded research in those centers include:

- Gene therapy strategies to treat a variety of diseases including cancer and HIV through the Center for Gene Therapy led by Jerry Mendell, MD;
- Innovative vaccine research for hepatitis C through the Center for Vaccines and Immunity led by Christopher Walker, PhD;
- Long-term effects of traumatic brain injury in children through the Center for Biobehavioral Health led by Keith Yeates, PhD;
- Ongoing research into a vaccine for ear infections through the Center for Microbial Pathogenesis led by Lauren Bakaletz, PhD; and
- Unraveling the genetic causes of congenital heart defects through the Center for Molecular and Human Genetics led by Gail Herman, MD, PhD.

In Central Ohio specifically, the NIH awarded more than \$170 million to support local health-related research.

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