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Children's HeartLink Names First Global Partner in Pediatric Cardiac Care and Training

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (January 23, 2012) – As a result of providing training and mentoring activities for more than 10 years to the [Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences \(AIMS\)](#) based in Kochi, India, [Children's HeartLink](#) has recognized AIMS' advancement by naming the program a Global Partner in Pediatric Cardiac Care and Training.

Children's HeartLink works to build the capacity of pediatric cardiac programs around the world in order to ensure that children with heart disease receive proper care. Children's HeartLink's support includes training local cardiac teams, providing consultation in surgical techniques, post-operative care skills and fostering teamwork among pediatric cardiac staff. After a partner site demonstrates significant progress toward improving the quality and accessibility of pediatric cardiac care and has reached a level of excellence where they can serve as a resource for other pediatric cardiac programs in the region, Children's HeartLink works with the center to transition to Children's HeartLink Global Partner in Pediatric Cardiac Care and Training.

“Over our many years of working with the AIMS pediatric cardiac program, Children's HeartLink has witnessed many improvements and advancements in the services that AIMS is able to provide to patients,” said Estelle Brouwer, Children's HeartLink vice president and director of international programs. “With the great strides that the AIMS program has made and given the institution's commitment to education and knowledge sharing, we are pleased to enter a new phase of our relationship—global partnership. The AIMS pediatric cardiac program has truly become a regional center of excellence for south India, and we are honored to work with them.”

Since 2000, Children's HeartLink has worked alongside AIMS to improve the accessibility and quality of pediatric cardiac care in the region. Joint projects between AIMS and Children's HeartLink have included: creating the first infection control certification course in India, which offers advanced professional development opportunities to infection control specialists from throughout the region; collaborating with the India Academy of Pediatrics supported pediatric cardiology training for practicing pediatricians; collaborating with the National Board of Examinations in India to support training for pediatric cardiology fellows; providing interventional cardiology training workshops for cardiologists from around the country; and supporting several regional symposiums on newborn post-operative care and ICU training.

“We have been extremely delighted and are honored to be associated with Children's HeartLink,” said Sanjeev Singh, senior medical administrator and associate professor at AIMS. “Owing to their whole hearted cooperation, our faculty have been trained at the best centers in the world, and they share their positive outcomes at various scientific forums. Since the association, AIMS pediatric heart program has been doing phenomenally well, patient care has improved significantly and health care outcomes are some of the best in the world. We look forward to more collaborative programs with Children's HeartLink, so as to make a small difference in the field of children's heart care.”

In 2012, AIMS will partner with Children's HeartLink on the development of a certification course for pediatric cardiac nurse training. Also, with Children's HeartLink support, AIMS will lead a multicenter program of infection control training that aims at establishing benchmark definitions and data collection and training practices on current infection prevention practice.

About Children's HeartLink

Founded in 1969, Children's HeartLink is a nonprofit organization partnering with health care centers in underserved regions of the world to strengthen their ability to diagnose and treat heart disease in children. Nearly 90 percent of newborns with congenital heart disease are in areas of the world where appropriate medical care is inadequate or unavailable. Children's HeartLink currently supports partner hospitals and programs in the following countries: Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Malaysia, Ukraine and Vietnam. For more information on Children's HeartLink, please visit www.childrensheartlink.org, with additional information found on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

About Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences

Amrita Institute of Medical Science (AIMS) brings together a dedicated team of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to provide the highest standards of medical treatment. AIMS' full range of primary and specialty care medical services enables cross-specialty consultation, which assures outstanding treatment for each patient.

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