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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's HeartLink and Seattle Children's Hospital Team Embark on Training Visit to Ukraine

Staff at the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center in Kiev, Ukraine, will receive training to advance pediatric cardiac services

Minneapolis, Minn. (September 17, 2010) – On September 19, 2010, with support from the Medtronic Foundation, Children's HeartLink will send a team of volunteers from Seattle Children's Hospital on a six-day visit to Kiev, Ukraine, to work with the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center to advance their pediatric cardiac services, advance the program as a regional center of excellence and provide high quality treatment for children suffering from heart disease.

Children's HeartLink and the Seattle Children's team have been collaborating with the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center since 2007 and provide both long-distance and on-site training for its staff. This trip continues the collaboration, focusing on highly specialized clinical training and consultation for managing complex congenital cardiac defects in newborns and children. The Children's HeartLink and Seattle Children's teams will offer observations and recommendations for Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center's current pediatric cardiac services and will target areas for future efforts.

Advancement of the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center services presents the opportunity to develop training partnerships between the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center and other pediatric cardiac programs in Ukraine for the benefit of children in the country and surrounding region.

Additional objectives of this training visit include:

1. To assist with strategic program planning and implementation and discuss future needs and ways to assist Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center enhance its standing as a regional center of excellence.
2. To further establish the relationship between the nursing staff at both institutions to deliver training and education through distance learning and telemedicine opportunities, as well as improve the skills of the local nursing staff.
3. To participate in the 5th Ukrainian Forum of Congenital Heart Disease – "Interventional cardiology and cardiac surgery of congenital heart disease in first hours of life."

About Children's HeartLink

Founded in 1969, Children's HeartLink is a medical non-governmental organization working in partnership with health care centers in underserved regions of the world to promote sustainable cardiac care for children with congenital or acquired heart disease. Children's HeartLink partners with health care providers in medically underserved areas, empowering local hospitals to care for children in their region with consistent, quality and sustainable pediatric cardiac services.

See www.childrensheartlink.org for more information.

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