

Carrie Ellis
Children's HeartLink
carrie@childrensheartlink.org
952.928.4860 ext. 16



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's HeartLink and Hospital for Sick Children Take Innovative Approach During Cardiac Training Visit to Chengdu, China

Staff at West China Hospital will receive training on cases from diagnosis through post-operative care

Minneapolis, Minn. (March 31, 2011) – On April 8, 2011, Children's HeartLink will send the first of two medical volunteer teams to West China Hospital in Chengdu, China, with a second team to follow on April 17, 2011. The teams of medical volunteers will consist of physicians and nurses from Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario.

Children's HeartLink has worked with West China Hospital since 2006 to improve accessibility and quality of pediatric cardiac care in the region, and is excited to announce the teams will be using a new and innovative approach to the visit. Instead of focusing on both operating room (OR) and intensive care unit (ICU) training during the same week, the teams from Hospital for Sick Children will phase the training over two weeks, with emphasis placed on OR processes and procedures during the first week and ICU skills and post-operative follow up during the second week. This training visit approach will give the staff at West China Hospital time to concentrate on and absorb coaching in specific areas, and will help them work toward achieving the hospital's vision of "for every child, a healthy heart."

During this cardiac training visit, both the West China Hospital and Hospital for Sick Children teams will:

1. Exchange technical skills and knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac patients, with particular emphasis on the post-operative care of children.
2. Observe and participate in the diagnosis and treatment of both open-heart surgeries and interventional cases in collaboration with West China Hospital.
3. Assess and review progress at West China Hospital toward building a sustainable regional center of excellence for pediatric cardiac service and achieving the hospital's vision, "For every child, a healthy heart."

About Children's HeartLink

Founded in 1969, Children's HeartLink is a nonprofit 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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