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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's HeartLink and Birmingham Children's Hospital embark on training visit to Malaysia

Staff at National Heart Institute in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will receive training to advance pediatric cardiac services

Minneapolis, Minn. (September 30, 2010) – On October 3, 2010, Children's HeartLink will send a team of volunteers from Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, U.K., on a six-day visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to work with staff at National Heart Institute (IJN -- *Institute Jantung Negara*) to advance their pediatric cardiac services and support the advancement of IJN as a regional center of excellence.

Children's HeartLink has partnered with IJN since 2007, and this is the third time a full cardiac team from Birmingham Children's has visited IJN. The two hospitals have also participated in several other training initiatives, including a visit by IJN staff to the U.K. in the spring of 2009.

The Children's HeartLink and Birmingham Children's Hospital teams will offer observations and recommendations on current pediatric cardiac services and plan future collaborative efforts. Additional objectives for the training visit include:

1. Modeling the team approach to pediatric cardiac care to enhance team communication and development.
2. Assisting with strategic program planning and implementation to enhance IJN's standing as a regional training center of excellence.
3. Deepening the relationships between IJN and Birmingham Children's Hospital by establishing teleconferencing/distance learning links and expanding staff collaboration beyond clinical specialties.

"Children's HeartLink is committed to improving the lives of children suffering from heart disease around the world," said Bistra Zheleva, assistant director of international programs at Children's HeartLink. "With this partnership, the IJN and Birmingham Children's teams are able to collaborate, share knowledge and refine skills so that, in the future, more children in Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding region can receive the treatment they need."

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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