

Contact: Carrie Ellis  
Children's HeartLink  
[carrie@childrensheartlink.org](mailto:carrie@childrensheartlink.org)  
952.928.4860 ext. 16



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Children's HeartLink Sends Medical Team to Kuala Lumpur** *Team of top cardiac specialists to perform critical pediatric operations during visit to Malaysia on October 4-9, 2009*

**Minneapolis, Minn. (Sept. 24, 2009)** — On October 4, 2009, Children's HeartLink will send a team of volunteers on a cardiac medical mission to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to participate in lifesaving operations on needy children. The mission to National Heart Institute (IJN -- *Institut Jantung Negara*) includes a group of volunteer physicians, nurses and technicians from Birmingham Children's Hospital in the United Kingdom led by pediatric cardiac surgeon, David Barron, M.D. The team will train the local cardiac medical staff and provide patient screening and treatment.

One in 120 children around the world is born with congenital heart disease. In the United States, children are typically diagnosed and treated at birth. Children's HeartLink, a Minneapolis-based international non-profit, helps build sustainable pediatric cardiac programs in the developing world, giving thousands of children access to treatment.

The October 2009 visit will be Children's HeartLink's second cardiac team medical mission to IJN. The goal of the mission is to continue collaboration with IJN and to advance its pediatric cardiac program.

Additional objectives for the visit are to help IJN:

- Plan for future needs and enhance its standing as a regional center of excellence
- Diagnose and treat needy children suffering from heart disease, while modeling a team approach to pediatric cardiac care
- Develop collegial relationships among the team members and exchange technical skills and knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric heart disease

These objectives reflect the Children's HeartLink mission to enhance and sustain pediatric cardiac diagnostic, treatment and prevention services for the benefit of children at risk from heart disease.

"Children's HeartLink is committed to improving the lives of children suffering from heart disease around the world," said Estelle Brower, vice president and international programs director of Children's HeartLink. "With this partnership, Dr. David Barron and his team will be collaborating with Dr. Mohd Azhari Yakub and his team to treat needy children while sharing knowledge and skills for the benefit of more children in the future. The contributions of these medical volunteers and the support from Medtronic are wonderful examples of how through collaboration we can help save the lives of many more children."

#### **About Children's HeartLink**

Children's HeartLink, founded in Minneapolis in 1969, is an international medical charity dedicated to the treatment and prevention of heart disease in needy children.

Children's HeartLink works in partnership with hospitals in developing countries to provide surgery, education and training for medical professionals, technical assistance, rheumatic fever prevention programs and donated equipment and supplies.

The goal of Children's HeartLink is to improve existing cardiac programs in underdeveloped countries and to empower local hospitals to care for children in their own region with consistent, quality and sustainable services. Children's HeartLink currently works with hospitals in Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa, Ukraine and Vietnam. For more information, visit the website [www.childrensheartlink.org](http://www.childrensheartlink.org).

Children's HeartLink extends its thanks and appreciation to the following major sponsors who have helped support the mission to Malaysia: Northwest Airlines, Medtronic CardioVascular, St. Jude Medical and numerous individual donors.

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