



June 8, 2009

**KCALSI AWARDS \$150,000 GRANT TO CHILDREN'S MERCY HOSPITAL
FOR NEW PEDIATRIC DRUG REFORMULATION PROGRAM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute has awarded a \$150,000 grant, provided by a fund at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, to Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics to support the development of leadership and operational activities of the Institute for Pediatric Innovation's (IPI) Pediatric Drug Reformulation Program led by Children's Mercy. The Pediatric Drug Reformulation program meets a significant need in the treatment of children due to the current lack of commercially available pediatric doses and forms of commonly used drugs. The program reformulates and develops existing medications to provide treatments that are in optimal forms and strengths for safe and effective use in infants, children and teens.

A portion of this grant from KCALSI will fund Children's Mercy's hiring of the director for the program, Pat McCloskey, Ph.D. McCloskey comes to Children's Mercy with significant pharmaceutical industry and university technology transfer experience and began this leadership role May 18, 2009. McCloskey will work closely with Stephen Spielberg, MD, Director of the Center for Personalized Medicine at CMH and Scientific Director of the IPI Drug Reformulation Program.

"At Children's Mercy, we have always been committed to the fact that children have unique medical and developmental needs, and nowhere is that more important than in creating medications and dosage forms that are safe and appropriate for children of all ages and sizes," says Randall L. O'Donnell, Ph.D., President and CEO at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. "Children's Mercy is already nationally recognized for our leadership in this area, and this generous grant from KCALSI allows

us to take the program to an even higher level that will benefit all children by providing drug reformulations specifically tailored for pediatric patients.”

This is the seventh grant that Children’s Mercy has received from KCALSI since the institute was founded in 2000, but the first one dedicated to the pediatric drug reformulation program. Dr. Daniel G. Getman, President of KCALSI noted that “Children’s Mercy Hospital and the Institute for Pediatric Innovation provide unique capabilities and fulfill an important need in the field of pediatric medicine. This grant is a great example of a private donor providing funds which will make a difference in children’s lives.”

Children’s Mercy was one of the three founding members of the Institute for Pediatric Innovation Consortium, along with Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford University and Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Barbara J. Mueth
Vice President, Community Relations
Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
(816) 346-1341
bmueth@cmh.edu

Daniel P. Getman, Ph.D.
President
The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute
816-753-7700
DGetman@kclifesciences.org