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For immediate release

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson Announces Launch of New Center for Environmental Health at Children's Mercy Hospital

New Center is the only one in the country to integrate medical management with environmental health

Kansas City, Mo – May 11, 2011 – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson visited Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics today to announce the innovative new Center for Environmental Health at Children's Mercy.

The mission of the Center for Environmental Health will be to improve and advocate for the health of children with environmentally-triggered illnesses through pediatric environmental health research, environmental health consulting, analytical services, education and community outreach.

The center will be directed by [Dr. Jay Portnoy](#), chief of the [section of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology at Children's Mercy](#), former president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and nationally recognized in the field of allergy and asthma research. [Dr. Jennifer Lowry](#), a pediatrician in the [sections of Pharmacology and Medical Toxicology](#), will serve as medical director of the new center. Dr. Lowry also leads the innovative Individualized Pediatric Therapeutics Drug Safety Service, a multi-disciplinary team of health care providers who work to identify and define adverse drug reactions in children.

The center will combine the efforts of the section of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, which has been actively engaged in environmental assessments of homes and schools where our patients reside, to improve the health and wellbeing of these children; with the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) at Children's Mercy, a project of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the EPA. The PEHSU's have been developed to provide education and consultation for health and public health professionals and others about children's environmental health. The Center for Environmental Health will also operate a clinic to diagnose and treat children with environmental exposures.

"Children's Mercy has maintained a strong relationship with the regional and national EPA offices for many years, and we value the resources that our partnership has allowed us to bring to our patients and community," says Dr. Lowry. The Children's Mercy environmental asthma management program was recognized in 2005 by the EPA with their "[National Environmental Leadership Award for Asthma Management](#)" award for advanced research, community outreach and improved outcomes for our patients with asthma.

"It is very unique for [hospitals to have environmental health specialists on staff](#), and we are the only [hospital and environmental health program in the U.S. that integrates medical management with environmental health](#)," says [Dr. Portnoy](#).

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During her visit to Children's Mercy, Administrator Jackson also discussed National Asthma Awareness Month and the EPA's recently-proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which would prevent 120,000 cases of childhood asthma symptoms each year.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. The 314-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 18, and has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Its faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org or download our mobile phone app *CMH4YOU* for all phone types. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson discussing National Asthma Awareness Month and the EPA's recently-proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo



EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson discussing the Kansas City area pollen count with Dr. Charles Barnes at Children's Mercy Hospital



Dr. Bridgette Jones discussing her asthma research with EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo