

## **CHILDREN'S MERCY PHYSICIAN SELECTED FOR KEY APPOINTMENTS WITH AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AND AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY**

**KANSAS CITY, MO – June 30, 2011** - Chitra Dinakar, MD, a pediatric allergist at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, has been elected to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) allergy section executive committee and the Board of Regents of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI).

In these positions, Dinakar will work with allergists and pediatricians from leading medical centers to advance policy and educational initiatives related to allergies, asthma and pediatric health.

"Both of these are high honors. They underscore Dr. Dinakar's passion for her role as a clinician, researcher and educator," said Jay Portnoy, MD, Section Chief of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. "Through these appointments, she will be able to share her expertise with colleagues, while also working on initiatives focused on educating consumers about asthma, allergies and other related conditions affecting children."

This recognition is one of several Dinakar has received in recent years. Dinakar has been named in *Kansas City Magazine's* "Super Doctors" issues (2007-2011) as well as Consumer Research of America's "Guide to America's Top Physicians" (2004-2010) and "Guides to America's Top Pediatricians" (2004-2010). She is also the recipient of multiple grants from the American Lung Association Clinical Research Network for her work on translational and clinical research pertaining to asthma.

Dinakar received her medical degree from Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), at Madras University in India before completing a residency in pediatrics at the Metrohealth Medical Center and a fellowship in Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, both in Ohio.

### **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" in all 10 specialties they rank. Our 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](http://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.