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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILDREN'S MERCY AND MEXICO ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT FOR RECIPROCAL EDUCATION AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS

Kansas City, Mo – December 18, 2009 – Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics announced today an agreement with Mexico to exchange medical, nursing and administrative personnel; establish pediatric continuing education opportunities; conduct medical research; and develop a joint referral system for patients.

A letter of intent was signed today by Secretary José Ángel Córdova, Mexico's Secretary of Health, and Randall L. O'Donnell, PhD, CEO and President of Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. The letter of intent included provisions for a bilateral referral system for patients that may require a high level of pediatric specialized care.

"This is an exciting day for us. We have partnerships with two other children's hospitals around the world, including Panama City, Panama and Quanzhou, China, but this is the first time we have partnered with a nation to provide pediatric care and expertise," said O'Donnell.

Each year many children are referred to Children's Mercy Hospital from countries around the world through our International Patient Program. This new agreement with Mexico will complement our existing International Patient program, which is a paid program that facilitates access for international children to the most advanced pediatric services and care available at Children's Mercy.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. is one of the nation's top, pediatric medical centers. Recognized by both the American Nurses Credentialing Center for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals" in 2009, Children's Mercy continues to provide outstanding pediatric care for children from birth through the age of 18. With a 314-bed facility, Level IIIc neonatal intensive care unit, Level I pediatric trauma center, faculty of 600 pediatricians, and [40 subspecialties](#), it is one of the largest and most comprehensive pediatric medical centers in the country. In addition to a mission of caring for children regardless of their family's ability to pay, Children's Mercy is actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. More information about Children's Mercy and its research can be found on our web site at childrensmercy.org. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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