

For immediate release

Children's Mercy Collaborates with KU Medical Center on \$20 million grant *Provides research and leadership to improve the care of pediatric patients throughout the region*

Kansas City, Mo. – June 14, 2011 – Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics will partner to build research infrastructure and provide key leadership roles for a new program, **Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research**. Headquartered at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Frontiers is a multi-center, network of scientists working on translational research - research that transforms laboratory discoveries into treatments and cures - for adult and pediatric patients. The five-year Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health totals \$19,794,046, and was announced today by the KU Medical Center.

Frontiers is part of the national CTSA consortium, consisting of 60 NIH-funded, medical research institutions that collaborate on clinical and translational. The goals of the Frontier consortium are to speed the translation of laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients, engage communities in clinical research efforts and train a new generation of clinical and translational researchers.

"The significance of the Frontiers program is that it will bring together all of the different area institutions involved in patient-oriented research. Children's Mercy is already at the forefront of children's health, and this partnership will continue the growth and development of our research; ultimately improving the health and wellbeing of children throughout our community," says Michael Artman, MD, Pediatrician-in-Chief at Children's Mercy, and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

As a key collaborating institution in Frontiers, faculty members and trainees at Children's Mercy will be able to expand educational opportunities and research services, and foster additional collaborations with scientists and clinicians across this multi-institutional program. Participation in Frontiers will also significantly enhance NIH funding opportunities for faculty from Children's Mercy for national research agendas supported by the CTSA consortium.

"This CTSA will provide junior faculty with unique educational and research opportunities that did not exist previously," says Gregory L. Kearns, PharmD, PhD, chairman, department of medical research and Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

Dr. Randall O'Donnell, President and CEO of Children's Mercy, will serve as the co-chair of the Frontiers Health Systems Leadership Council. Other Children's Mercy faculty with leadership positions in the consortium includes:

- John Lantos, MD (Director, Ethics Program)
- J. Steven Leeder, PharmD, PhD (Associate Director, Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics Core)
- Michael Artman, MD (Children's Mercy Affiliate Liaison)
- Karen Cox, PhD, RN, FAAN (Children's Mercy Affiliate Liaison)
- Gregory Kearns, PharmD, PhD (Children's Mercy Affiliate Liaison and member, Clinical Translational Research Center Steering Committee)
- William Truog, MD (member, Clinical Translational Research Center Steering Committee)

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Children's Mercy and The University of Kansas Hospital will be joined in the Frontiers consortium by the following medical center partners: St. Luke's Hospital; the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Kansas City; Truman Medical Center; Swope Health Services; the Center for Behavioral Medicine; and Wesley Medical Center and Via Christi Health System in Wichita. Academic partners will be the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

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 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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