



NEWS RELEASE

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EPA HONORS CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD IN ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

Medical Center Honored for High-Quality Asthma Care with Environmental Controls

Washington, D.C. – Connecticut Children's Medical Center has been selected to receive the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2012 *National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management* for its exemplary efforts to deliver high-quality asthma care that includes environmental controls.

"We are pleased and grateful to have received this award from the EPA in recognition of our 14 years of work to improve asthma management and outcomes for children," said Michelle Cloutier, MD, Director of Connecticut Children's Asthma Center and Professor of Pediatrics at UConn. Late last year, Connecticut Children's Easy Breathing program, created by Dr. Cloutier, enrolled its 100,000th child in the program. Dr. Cloutier explained, "Results from Easy Breathing have demonstrated new insights into the environmental aspects of asthma in children of various socioeconomic status and of various ethnicities."

This award recognizes stellar asthma management programs that are using innovative approaches to improve patient health and quality of life. Connecticut Children's is one of only four programs to receive this prestigious award this year. Award winners are recognized for demonstrating that comprehensive asthma care with a strong environmental component can dramatically improve health outcomes for people with asthma.

Asthma prevalence is higher in Connecticut than in the United States as a whole, and it appears to be on the rise. Approximately 86,000 children (10.5%) in Connecticut report a current diagnosis of asthma (*Asthma in Connecticut 2008: A Surveillance Report*).

"EPA is recognizing Connecticut Children's Medical Center for their outstanding efforts to reduce the burden of asthma for families in their communities," said Mike Flynn, Director of

EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air. "This program is achieving positive environmental and health outcomes, and EPA applauds their innovation and dedication to controlling asthma."

For more information about EPA's *National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management*, visit <http://www.epa.gov/asthma>.

About Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Connecticut Children's Medical Center, the region's only academic medical center dedicated exclusively to the care of children, is committed to improving children's physical and emotional health through family-centered care, research, education and advocacy. Named one of America's Best Children's Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report, Connecticut Children's offers a full range of quality pediatric services at its hospitals in Hartford and Waterbury, NICUs in Hartford and Farmington, Specialty Care Centers in Farmington, Glastonbury, Hartford and Shelton and 12 other practice locations. For more information, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org and connect on Facebook at www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrens.

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