



NEWS RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S TO LAUNCH COMPREHENSIVE DOWN SYNDROME PROGRAM WITH CT DOWN SYNDROME CONGRESS

First of its kind service to improve health outcomes for children with Down syndrome

HARTFORD, Conn. – Connecticut Children's Medical Center is proud to announce the launch of the Comprehensive Down Syndrome Program (CDSP), a collaborative effort with the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress. The program, which will be the first of its kind in the state, will facilitate a coordinated and integrated system of care designed to serve children with Down syndrome from birth to 18 years of age.

“The goal of the Comprehensive Down Syndrome Program is to address and integrate all aspects of a child's developmental care including medical, emotional, behavioral, educational and psycho-social needs,” explained Dr. Robert Greenstein, Connecticut Children's Medical Director of the Comprehensive Down Syndrome Program, and Professor of Genetics and Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. “The program is designed to provide the Connecticut sub-specialists and area physicians who treat children with Down syndrome, as well as their patients, with the resources for integrated, coordinated, continuous care.”

Services offered for children with Down syndrome will include consultative evaluation; care coordination; referrals to Connecticut Children's sub-specialists; support services for children with Down syndrome, their families and caregivers; and transitional assistance to provide continuity of care as patients reach adulthood.

Dr. Greenstein and representatives from the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress initiated the CDSP to increase awareness of and support for patients with Down syndrome. Before the creation of the program, parents of children with Down syndrome “didn’t know who to see or where to go,” said Holly Salegna, President of the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress. “Now children with Down syndrome can get all of their care in one place here in Connecticut; there are not many programs in the country that offer that.”

The CDSP will be supported by a scientific committee of advisors, including physicians and parents of children with Down syndrome.

“We are very excited about this collaboration,” said Ann Milanese, MD, president of the medical staff at Connecticut Children’s and Division Head of Developmental and Rehabilitation Medicine. “We hope it will enrich the lives of the children and families that we serve, as well as educate and build capacity for care in the greater medical community.”

Down syndrome occurs in approximately one in every 700 births. In Connecticut, an estimated 40 to 50 children are born each year with Down syndrome.

The Comprehensive Down Syndrome Program will open its doors at 100 Retreat Avenue in Hartford, a satellite location of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, on September 1. Appointments will be taken starting August 15 by calling Rachel King at (860)837-5940 or emailing rking@connecticutchildrens.org.

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 & 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 11 other practice locations.

For more information, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org and connect on Facebook (www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrens) and Twitter (@ctchildrens).

About Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress

Founded in 1987, the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress raises awareness of and support for individuals with Down syndrome and their parents and caregivers. It maintains an informational website and sponsors events including an annual convention, a summertime picnic, and numerous other support and educational activities. For more information about the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress, visit www.ctdownsyndromecongress.org or call 888-486-8537.

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