NEW RELEASE

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Children’s Hospital Physician Honored for Research

Madera, CA (October 30, 2009) – Dr. Aaron Reitman, a pediatric resident at the UC San Francisco-Fresno program at Children’s Hospital Central California, recently won the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) “Best Abstract for Physician in Training Award.” His research focused on procalcitonin as a biomarker for bacteremia in pediatric patients with a fever and abnormally low white blood cell count.

Results of Dr. Reitman’s blind study with about 400 pediatric oncology and Emergency Department patients at Children’s Hospital show that procalcitonin is an effective tool to quickly distinguish whether a patient has a viral or more serious, and sometimes life-threatening, bacterial infection. Results also indicate that procalcitonin was superior to the more common C-Reactive Protein test in predicting the absence of bacteremia.

Benefits of using the test potentially include physicians having a more effective method to determine if a patient should be admitted to the hospital, as well as the level of antibiotics to administer to the child.

Procalcitonin is a biological marker that is normal in healthy children. Elevated levels have been present in children with bacterial infections, but not those with viral infections. The ability to measure procalcitonin levels in the blood is a new technology that received FDA marketing approval in spring 2008.

“I’ve had amazing support from Children’s Hospital,” said Dr. Reitman. “You can have a great idea but you need help to get you the rest of the way. You can’t do it alone. I’ve had that help here.”

“All of us at UCSF Fresno are proud of Dr. Reitman for being recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics,” said Joan Voris, MD, associate dean at UCSF Fresno. “Dr. Reitman’s honor reflects positively on the partnership between Children’s Hospital Central California and
UCSF Fresno for providing first-class residency training that is rich in research programs pertinent to the Valley and across the nation.”

Dr. Reitman received the honor at the AAP’s annual National Conference & Exhibition Oct. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. He was also only one of 11 participants selected to give an oral presentation on their abstract during the section on critical care.

**About Children’s Hospital Central California**

We are a not-for-profit, state-of-the-art children’s hospital on a 50-acre campus. In California, we treat more inpatient cases than any pediatric hospital north of San Diego, making us the second largest children’s hospital in the state. Our 338-bed facility is one of the 10 largest hospitals of its type in the nation.

We received Magnet Nursing designation in 2004 and redesignation in 2008. We are the first children's hospital west of the Rockies to receive Magnet Nursing designation, the highest nursing benchmark in the world. We are accredited by the Joint Commission and we are proud to have been recognized by the LeapFrog Group with an award for Excellence in Patient Safety and Health Care Quality.

We perform more than 9,000 pediatric surgeries a year and our Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units have some of the lowest mortality rates in the country while treating some of the sickest kids.

Our Craycroft Cancer Center is a full member of the nationally-recognized Children’s Oncology Group (COG), and sees more than 100 new cases a year. Our Willson Heart Center has pioneered pediatric heart care for half a century.

We are the premier pediatric medical center in the heart of the Golden State. We are Children’s Hospital Central California – Amazing People, Incredible Care.

People, Incredible Care.

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