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NEWS

C.S. Mott Children's Hospital
Notable Programs

- The Michigan Congenital Heart Center, based at Mott, is virtually unmatched by any other institution in the United States for the treatment of infants and children with heart defects and diseases. In 2001 alone, Mott had 860 congenital heart admissions, 574 open-heart procedures, 443 closed-heart procedures and 774 cardiac catheterizations. More than 20,000 children with heart defects and disorders have been followed by U-M experts since 1978, making this program one of the most experienced in the country and among the top five surgical and medical pediatric cardiac services in the United States. U-M surgeons were among the first in the nation to perform open heart surgery on children, and they continue to pioneer surgical procedures to correct congenital heart defects, procedures performed by few others in the world. The center also puts an emphasis on prevention for patients prone to chronic heart-related diseases.

- Young cancer patients at the U-M are treated through one of the most well-respected pediatric oncology programs in the nation, through Mott and the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center. More than 350 childhood cancer patients were treated at the U-M in 2001, including 52 bone marrow transplant recipients. Patients have access to dozens of clinical trials of promising new treatments, including immunotherapy and chemotherapy regimens developed at the U-M. A large research program, combined with one of the nation's few training programs for young pediatric oncologists, ensures that U-M contributes to the health of young cancer patients far beyond its own walls.

- Mott Hospital's Holden Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, one of few "Level Four" or quaternary units in the nation, uses the latest in high technology to heal critically ill infants while recognizing the importance of the tender touch. In 2001, 1,192 admissions to Holden were recorded, including infants born after less than 29 weeks in the womb or born at less than 1,000 grams of birth weight. Holden, established in 1972, offers numerous clinical trials that ensure patients always receive the benefits of the latest medical advances, and provides specialty care for patients transferred from many regional hospitals. U-M research has greatly improved the outlook for all premature babies: U-M doctors literally "wrote the book" on the use of ventilators to keep newborns alive.

- Mott Hospital's Child Life department, created in 1922, was the first of its kind in the nation. Now, 80 years later, it is still considered one of the best. It offers in-hospital education to help children keep up with schoolwork, as well as a back-to-school transition program to help ease reintroduction to the classroom. Art and music therapy help children express themselves while visits from trained dogs and their volunteer owners, bring smiles to their faces. Child Life also offers medical play, a way for children to learn about their illnesses through play.

- Critical and intensive care at Mott has a long history of using advanced technology to help the sickest young patients. In 1975, a U-M team developed extracorporeal mebrane oxygenation, or ECMO, a life support system for infants, children and adults that oxygenates blood outside the body and allows underdeveloped or ailing lungs to rest and grow stronger. Mott has an ambulance and helicopter unit equipped with ECMO to transport critically ill babies and kids, and Mott's intensive care units also routinely use ECMO. Now, new life support technologies are under development at Mott, including an artificial liver.

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- Mott Hospital has a Level I pediatric trauma unit, one of only 13 such units in the United States approved by the American College of Surgeons for the treatment of young accident victims and others needing emergency surgical care. In addition, the U-M emergency department features numerous physicians and nurses board-certified in pediatric emergency medicine, and 11 dedicated beds for young emergency patients in a state-of-the-art ER. The U-M leads one of only four hospital coalitions in the nation dedicated to improving emergency care for children through research.

- The U-M pediatric surgical team offers the latest advances in surgical techniques, including minimally invasive surgery assisted a precision-enhancing robot. Patients from Michigan and around the world come to Mott for repair of complex internal defects, removal of cancers such as brain tumors, and reconstructive surgery in an operating room suite staffed by specialized nurses, anesthetists and life-support professionals. U-M pediatric surgeons bring their talents to patients around Michigan and northern Ohio through satellite locations at other hospitals.

- Mott Hospital's first successful heart transplant on an infant took place in 1984. The hospital now offers a full pediatric transplant program including heart, liver, kidney, pancreas and bone marrow. The Pediatric Liver Transplant Program, the only such program in Michigan, performs 10 to 15 liver transplants per year, including living-donor procedures.

- The U-M's Craniofacial Anomalies Program began as the Cleft Palate Center more than 70 years ago and has become one of the largest programs in the country. Specialists have pioneered new treatments for children with cleft lips and palates, and other craniofacial disorders. A unique team-based approach ensures the best communication between experts and the highest-quality patient care.

- The Division of Pediatric Nephrology treats more than 4,000 children per year with renal disorders. An extensive Pediatric Dialysis Program was established in 1998 and is one of only a handful in the world designed specifically to serve the smallest kidney failure patients.

- Mott has one of the leading programs in the U.S. for babies, children and teens who rely on ventilators and tracheostomies to help them breathe due to cystic fibrosis, complications of premature birth, spinal cord injury or other causes. The Pediatric and Adolescent Ventilator Rehabilitation Program provides coordinated care and support for dozens of ventilator-dependent patients from across the state and the country, often from birth into adulthood. Mott patients can attend the Trails Edge camp, held each summer in mid-Michigan as one of only four camps in the nation for ventilator-dependent children. Trails Edge gives parents a respite and removes the boundaries to camp fun for "medically fragile" children, allowing them to climb trees, ride in hot air balloons and capture some of the same memories that all campers cherish.

- Mott Hospital had the first hospital-based inpatient adolescent mental health service in the U.S. Today, children and adolescents with severe psychiatric disorders are treated at the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry unit. The U-M's child and adolescent mental health program, including inpatient and outpatient, is one of the nation's most extensive. Pediatric and adolescent depression is a major focus at the U-M Depression Center, where suicide-prevention research and studies of the basic underpinnings of depressive disorders are under way.

- Hearing loss can interfere with a child's ability to grow, develop and learn, and Mott has one of the nation's oldest and most comprehensive programs to detect, evaluate and treat hearing loss in infants and children. All babies born at or transferred to the U-M are screened for hearing loss, and a unique follow-up program ensures that those with early indications of deficits or risk factors for late-onset deafness get the services they need. U-M's cochlear implant program, one of the oldest and largest in the country, has restored the hearing of hundreds of children as young as one year, through the use of implanted hearing-assisting technology.

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