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The Children's Tumor Foundation Unveils 21-Hospital Clinic Network

~Neurofibromatosis patients to receive more cohesive care~

New York, NY (October 3, 2007) – The Children's Tumor Foundation this week announced the establishment of the Neurofibromatosis Clinic Network, a 21-hospital initiative designed to provide expert clinical care to individuals living with Neurofibromatosis (NF). The Neurofibromatosis Clinic Network is the first program of its kind.

"This is an important step toward standardizing and increasing the quality of care for individuals with NF," said John Risner, president of the Foundation.

Neurofibromatosis is the term for three distinct genetic disorders, NF1, NF2, and Schwannomatosis. The manifestations of NF vary greatly even within each individual disorder. Many NF patients have to see specialists in a variety of fields to address all of the complications associated with the disorder. The NF Clinic Network seeks to address that issue.

"Our Research Advisory Board recognized this as an area in which NF care was deficient," said Risner. "The NF Clinic Network brings together specialists from many different fields so that patients can get the care they need and their physicians are aware of the treatments each patient is receiving."

The most common form of Neurofibromatosis, NF1, occurs in 1 in 3,000 births and can cause tumors that grow on nerves anywhere in or on the body. NF2 occurs in 1 in 25,000 births and can cause brain and spinal tumors, affecting the nerves for hearing, sight and balance. Schwannomatosis occurs 1 in 40,000 births and is almost always characterized by chronic pain.

The Foundation's Clinical Care Advisory Board selected the twenty-one hospitals and will meet every three months to review new applicants and consider standards of care. The Board is made up of some of the foremost experts on NF and the complications it presents.

About The Children's Tumor Foundation:

Founded in 1978, The Children's Tumor Foundation is dedicated to improving the health and well being of more than 100,000 Americans living with neurofibromatosis (NF). Our research program has played a key role in the discovery of the genes that cause NF, understanding the biology of NF, creation of The NF Clinic Network and preclinical screening of promising drug compounds to treat the disorder.

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