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Phoenix Children's announces 5 new pediatric sub-specialists join Hospital's Medical Group

Staff growth continues as Hospital proceeds with expansion plans

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 29, 2006) – At the end of the 1st Quarter of 2006, Phoenix Children's Hospital announced it has added five new pediatric sub-specialists to its ranks of employed medical professionals. The increase continues the Hospital's last two years of staff growth and helps the Hospital prepare for several significant expansions expected through 2010. With the newest additions, the Hospital now has 90 employed physicians and total medical staff of 790 physicians and other medical professionals.

The Hospital's latest additions include Petros Anagnostopoulos, MD, in Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery; Daphne DeMello, MD, in Pediatric Pathology; Elaine Ellis, MD, in Developmental Pediatrics; Karen Gerber-Vecsey, MD, in Pediatric Nephrology; and Walanda W. Smith, PhD, in Pediatric Psychology.

"We're very proud of the large group of pediatric sub-specialists we have here at Phoenix Children's Hospital, and it's exciting to see our specialized programs get even stronger," said Robert L. Meyer, President and Chief Executive Officer of Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Just a few of the growth plans for the Hospital in the next few years are the addition of a Ronald McDonald House to its Thomas campus; a new cardiac cath lab; an expanded neonatal intensive care unit (NICU); and a trauma program.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For bios on each new physician, please see attached. For physician photographs, contact Jessica Catlin at (602) 546-5877 or jcatlin@phoenixchildrens.com.

Phoenix Children's Hospital

New Employed Physicians – 1st Quarter 2006 Announcement

Petros Anagnostopoulos, MD, Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, has joined the Children's Heart Center team at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Dr. Anagnostopoulos earned his medical degree at the National & Capodistrian University of Athens School of Medicine in Athens, Greece. Dr. Anagnostopoulos completed an internship and residency in General Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He went on to receive fellowship training in Cardiothoracic Surgery (University of Pittsburgh Hospitals) and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery (University of California at San Francisco). Dr. Anagnostopoulos is certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

Daphne DeMello, MD, Pediatric Pathology, recently became the fourth Pediatric Pathologist with Phoenix Children's Medical Group. Dr. DeMello transferred from St. Louis University, where she had been serving as a Professor or Associate Professor of Pathology since 1976. After completing her medical education at Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, Dr. DeMello served her residency in Pathology at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, and DePaul Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. She also completed a fellowship in pediatric pathology at St. Louis University. Dr. DeMello is certified by the American Board of Pathology with a sub-certification in Pediatric Pathology.

Elaine Ellis, MD, Developmental Pediatrics, has joined Phoenix Children's Hospital as medical director of the Neuro-Developmental Evaluation Program. Dr. Ellis graduated from Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans, La., and completed her pediatric residency at Keesler Air Force Base Medical Center in Mississippi. She received fellowship training in developmental pediatrics at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa., and the University of South Florida's Section for Child Development in Tampa, Fla. Among a career highlighted by various honors and recognitions, she received the T. Berry Brazelton Infant Advocacy Award for early childhood intervention. Dr. Ellis boasts nearly two decades of experience in NICU follow-up and developmental pediatrics and is board certified in both pediatrics and neuro-developmental disabilities.

Karen Gerber-Vecsey, MD, Pediatric Nephrology, is the newest member of the Kids Kidney Center team at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Dr. Gerber-Vecsey earned her medical degree at the State University of New York (SUNY)—Buffalo School of Medicine in Buffalo, N.Y. She then completed her pediatric residency and fellowship training in Pediatric Nephrology at The Women and Children's Hospital at SUNY—Buffalo. Dr. Gerber-Vecsey is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Walanda W. Smith, PhD, Pediatric Psychology, recently joined the Psychology department at Phoenix Children's Center for Neurosciences and Behavioral Medicine. Dr. Smith earned her masters and doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology at Fordham University in Bronx, N.Y. She completed psychology internships and postdoctoral training at Bellevue Hospital and Medical Center in New York, N.Y., and at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. In addition to serving on the faculty of Northern Arizona University, Dr. Smith has also worked at Arizona State Hospital, at the Brooklyn Center for Psychotherapy, and in private practice.