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First pediatric rheumatology program in Arizona launches with arrival of Michael Shishov, MD, MPH, at Phoenix Children's Hospital

Approximately 4,000 children in Arizona have rheumatic diseases

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Nov. 30, 2006) – With the recent addition of Michael Shishov, MD, MPH, to its staff, Phoenix Children's Hospital has opened the first pediatric rheumatology program in Arizona.

Left untreated or under-treated, rheumatic diseases can cause disability in childhood and negatively affect a child's growth and development. Proper treatment from a pediatric-trained rheumatologist who not only understands the different behavior of rheumatic disease in children, but also the difference in treating a child, offers hope for what would otherwise be an uncertain future.

“The diagnosis and management of children with rheumatic diseases is best accomplished by a pediatric rheumatologist, so I am thrilled to be able to serve the needs of these children in Arizona,” said Shishov.

According to the Greater Southwest Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, there are 4,000 children in Arizona with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and other rheumatic diseases. Treatment by a pediatric rheumatologist will make a substantial difference.

“This growing community doesn't just need more doctors. It needs and deserves more medical programs and specialists so pediatric patients can get world-class care right here in Arizona without traveling across the country,” said Bob Meyer, president and CEO of Phoenix Children's Hospital. Meyer has placed strong emphasis on developing the Hospital's specialty programs. With Shishov's arrival, the multidisciplinary pediatric rheumatology team at Phoenix Children's – including nurses and a medical assistant, as well as support from other sub-specialists on campus – is now in full swing, and there are

even plans to hire a pediatric nurse practitioner and an additional pediatric rheumatologist in the next several years.

Shishov studied at the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University before completing his internship and residency at New York University Medical Center, both in New York, NY. He recently completed his fellowship training in pediatric rheumatology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where his research interests include the epidemiology and pathogenesis of systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis, mixed connective tissue disease, and juvenile dermatomyositis. Shishov is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

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 website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.