



111 MICHIGAN AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20010

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Children's employee Sue Patton for being the first to correctly answer the Spring 2006 *BearNet* Trivia Question...

The nation's first hospital-based Office of Child Health Advocacy was established at Children's National Medical Center in what year?

B. 1973

Sue won a Children's sweat-shirt. Congratulations Sue!

Did You Know?

- In 1997, Congress enacted the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to address the growing problem of uninsured children.
- Enactment of SCHIP was the single largest expansion of health insurance coverage for children since the creation of Medicaid in the mid-1960s.
- Since enactment, SCHIP has provided health coverage to approximately 4 million U.S. children.
- SCHIP now provides insurance coverage to 4-5 percent of all U.S. children.
- SCHIP is scheduled to expire in 2007 unless Congress acts to reauthorize the program.
- Children's will be actively involved in advocating that Congress reauthorize SCHIP for another 10 years.

BearNet

FALL 2006

NEWS

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

President Signs CHGME Bill

Children's hospitals across the country, along with the National Association of Children's Hospitals, have advocated for passage of legislation to reauthorize the critically important Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program for more than two years. On September 26, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed H.R. 5574, the House followed suit on September 28, and the president signed the bill into law on October 6. The bill authorizes Congress to fund the CHGME program at \$330 million annually for Fiscal Years 2007 – 2011.

The CHGME program provides critical funding for 61 independent children's teaching hospitals across the country, including more than \$12 million for Children's annually, to train the next generation of pediatricians, pediatric specialists and researchers. Adult teaching hospitals receive funding to pay for the costs associated with graduate medical education through Medicare. Because we treat children and not the elderly, Children's and other children's hospitals are left out of the Medicare GME funding stream and therefore rely on the CHGME program to help sustain teaching missions. ■

BearNet Advocates Campaign for Children's Health Care

In early September, *BearNet* advocates joined thousands of advocates from across the country by signing a petition urging Congress and the White House to make children's health coverage a priority. A new coalition called the Campaign for Children's Health Care organized an online petition for providers, parents and child advocates from across the country to urge Congress and the White House to develop legislation that will provide "comprehensive, affordable, high-quality health coverage for all children."

As reported in the Spring 2006 issue of *BearNet News*, more than 9 million children in the United States lack health insurance, including more than 13,000 children in the District of Columbia, more than 125,000 children in Maryland and more than 163,000 children in Virginia. Although many of these children qualify for public health-care coverage such as Medicaid, many others live in families earning too much to qualify for public coverage, but not enough to afford private insurance.

At Children's National Medical Center, this is another great example of how *BearNet* members' advocacy puts the "A" in our mission of C.A.R.E.: Care, Advocacy, Research & Education on behalf of all children. *BearNet* advocates help support our commitment to the children and families we serve locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. To sign the petition, [click here](#). ■



www.dcchildrens.com

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Children's Dedicates The Wicker Project for Muscular Dystrophy Research



Mark L. Batsbaw, MD, Chief Academic Officer and Director of the Children's Research Institute at Children's National Medical Center (right), congratulates Congressman Roger Wicker (R-MS) (left) for his tireless efforts to advance Muscular Dystrophy research.

On Monday, September 25, Children's National Medical Center dedicated The Wicker Project for Muscular Dystrophy Research in honor of Congressman Roger Wicker (R-MS).

During the dedication ceremony, Children's leadership announced that the Wicker Project will encompass many different pursuits of muscular dystrophy research presently underway at Children's. Such areas include, among others, the recently-named Wellstone Center of Excellence, the mouse core facility and the Coordinated International Neuromuscular Research Group (CINRG), all of which are coordinated out of the Center for Genetic Medicine at Children's Research Institute.

The dinner and dedication, which was held in Children's 5th floor research atrium, honored Congressman Roger Wicker for his tireless efforts to advance Muscular Dystrophy research. In 2000, Congressman Wicker championed the first significant investment of federal research dollars into Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, the world's most fatal genetic disease afflicting children, by authoring the Muscular Dystrophy CARE Act. Six years and more than \$80 million later, the results of his commitment and dedication are visible in the hopeful faces of children and families around the world who have witnessed the progress and promise of scientific research. ■

BearNet Trivia!

QUESTION

On November 7, all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives will be up for re-election. Currently, Republicans hold a narrow majority with 232 seats, while Democrats control 202 seats. One Independent rounds out the 435.

Will the Republicans maintain control of the House or will Democrats pick up enough seats to re-take control for the first time since 1994?

What will be the partisan split when the new Congress convenes in January 2007?

Send your guess to:

bquirk@cnmcresearch.org and stay tuned for the results in early November!

Remember to include your guess for the majority party and the number of seats it will control.



BearNet Advocates Support the Combating Autism Act

In late September, *BearNet* members generated more than 70 letters to the House of Representatives urging the passage of the Combating Autism Act. The Senate unanimously passed the bill earlier this year.

While it is not yet clear if the bill will pass, its passage would greatly increase the amount of money authorized for research on autism through the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Children's doctors and scientists are already conducting cutting-edge research into autism and autism spectrum disorders. It is hoped that an infusion of federal funding will help to expand our neuroimaging program to include autism and traumatic brain injury as well as empower doctors and scientists to conduct research and develop other therapeutic approaches to address the needs of people living with autism and their families. ■

3 Ways to Join BearNet!

Register On-line at:

www.dcchildrens.com

under the Legislative Advocacy section

E-Mail To: bquirk@cnmcresearch.org

Or Call: Bill Quirk, Manager,
Government Affairs at 202.884.5617

www.dcchildrens.com

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