

### Costello to lead Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



Children's Memorial Hospital recently recruited John M. Costello, MD, MPH, as the Medical Director of the Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit (CCU), a unique 36-bed unit at Lurie Children's – the 23-story hospital in construction on the campus of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine that will replace the current facility in the

summer of 2012. The new state-of-the-art hospital is named in recognition of Ann Lurie's \$100 million gift.

The CCU will combine intensive care experience and technology with acute care family amenities to allow all cardiac patients to remain in the same room with the same caregivers from admission to discharge.

As a transition toward the CCU concept, Children's Memorial currently has 9 beds in the pediatric intensive care unit designated as cardiac intensive care unit (CICU) beds. When he starts on July 1, 2010, Costello will direct the medical care of post-operative cardiac surgery patients, heart transplant patients and cardiology patients in the CICU. Costello also will spend considerable time developing the new CCU for Lurie Children's.

Costello's background is ideal for his new role. He currently has an academic appointment at Harvard Medical School and serves on the faculty at Children's Hospital Boston, where he is responsible for the medical care of CICU patients and is an active clinical researcher.

He is returning to Children's Memorial where he completed his pediatric residency, a fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine and another fellowship in pediatric cardiology. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, his medical degree from Feinberg School and his Master of Public Health degree from Harvard School of Public Health.

Costello also will be the only physician in Illinois with certifications from the American Board of Pediatrics Sub-Board of Pediatric Critical Care and Sub-Board of Pediatric Cardiology.

His research interests include the conduct of perioperative trials and outcomes research in children undergoing complex cardiac surgery. He is the principal investigator for an American Heart Association research grant that supports the investigation of perioperative natriuretic hormone infusions. Costello also collaborates on a National Institutes of Health grant evaluating the use of insulin to control glucose levels after cardiovascular surgery. He is interested in quality improvement initiatives and has published studies regarding the prevention of healthcare-associated infections after cardiovascular surgery.

### Backer 15th in US to receive new congenital cardiac surgery subspecialty certification



Carl Backer, MD, Division Head of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery and Surgical Director of the Heart Transplant Program at Children's Memorial, was 15th in the country to receive the new subspecialty certification in congenital cardiac surgery from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

This new certification recognizes surgeons who have met a high national standard and are experts in congenital heart surgery with significant professional accomplishments in the field. Backer is a Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and A.C. Buehler Professor of Surgery.

### ECMO program receives international award for excellence

Children's Memorial's extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) program was named a recipient of the Excellence in Life Support Award from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). ELSO is an international consortium of healthcare professionals and scientists who are dedicated to the development and evaluation of novel therapies for support of failing organ systems. In an environment focused on outcomes, the ELSO award provides evidence of the institution's commitment to exceptional patient care, specialized equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols, advanced education of all staff and high quality standards.