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Dr. William Hardy Hendren Appointed to Children's Well-Being Foundation Board of Advisors



Milton, Mass.—The Children's Well-Being Foundation, a nonprofit that provides medical care to children in Costa Rica, is honored to welcome Dr. William Hardy Hendren, a pediatric surgeon from Boston, to its Advisory Board.

Dr. Hendren's innovative developments revolutionized the practice of pediatric surgery. In 1969 he became the first surgeon in Boston to successfully separate conjoined, or Siamese, twins. Dr. Hendren is the Distinguished Robert E. Gross Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, in

Boston, Mass.; emeritus chief of surgery at Children's Hospital Boston; and an honorary surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

After graduating from high school in 1943, he then joined the Navy, becoming a Carrier Qualified Naval Aviator. He attended Dartmouth College, and then the two-year medical school program at Dartmouth Medical School, before completing his studies at Harvard Medical School in 1952. As a senior at Harvard, he had a very active role in initiating the National Internship Matching Plan (or "The Match"), which has worked successfully since then. Eight years of surgical training followed at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Children's Hospital, Boston.

After his surgical training, Dr. Hendren was named Chief of Pediatric Surgery at MGH. It was while serving in that capacity from 1960 to 1982 that he began to specialize in the repair of conditions that had previously been thought to be beyond hope. He achieved groundbreaking success in the surgical correction of complex genito-urinary defects that surgeons before him had pronounced impossible to fix.

Dr. Hendren has mentored many surgeons in pediatric surgery and pediatric urology from both MGH and Children's Hospital, most of who are serving in academic positions today. He has performed surgery in more than 36 cities in 26 countries, including Syria, Pakistan, China, Russia and other remote locations on 6 of the 7 continents. He has found it very educational to do this and urges colleagues to do this form of "giving back."

"We are honored that Dr. Hendren, one of the world's leading experts in pediatric surgery, has decided to join the Children's Well-Being Foundation Advisory Board," says Dr. George Whitelaw, founder of Children's Well-Being Foundation. "He is highly respected in the medical field and we look forward to his guidance as we continue to expand our organization and improve the lives of children in Costa Rica."

Dr. William G. Hendren, a cardiac surgeon, and Dr. W. Hardy Hendren founded The W. Hardy Hendren Educational Foundation for Pediatric Surgery and Urology, a non-profit organization to serve as the memory and educational voice of the medical contributions he has made over a lifetime of clinical practice to a global audience. The mission of the organization is to enhance the care of sick children.

About the Children's Well-Being Foundation

The Children's Well-Being Foundation was founded in 2007 by a Boston-based physician dedicated to creating and implementing health, health education, and social skill programs for under-privileged children in Central America. The non-profit organization has cared for thousands of children – providing primary care services, dental care, and eye exams – in Costa Rica. The group works with local and international partners to ensure the sustainability of its clinics and training opportunities for future doctors who are encouraged to pursue medical volunteerism. High school and college students also participate in non-medical intern programs. For more information, please visit www.cwbfoundation.org.

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