

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elmhurst Hospital Center and St. Mary's Hospital for Children Host International Symposium on Infant Hip Disorders

World renowned Austrian orthopedic surgeon Reinhard Graf discusses groundbreaking medical techniques for reducing the incidences and effects of deformation of the hip joint in infants

Disorder seen disproportionately in Hispanic, East Asian, and Central European populations

(Elmhurst, NY, February 8, 2010) On February 5th through February 7th, St. Mary's Hospital for Children and Elmhurst Hospital Center hosted an international symposium on reducing incidences of Developmental Hip Dysplasia (DDH) in infants. Infant Hip Dysplasia, or an anatomic abnormality of the hip joint, is the most common disorder affecting the hip in children. If not diagnosed and treated early, DDH can lead to early hip joint arthritis with disabling deformities. It has been estimated that 40% of the total hip replacements performed in the United States for the treatment of osteoarthritis are the results of untreated or late treated DDH.

DDH is more prevalent in certain ethnic groups, particularly Hispanic, Native American, and Central/Eastern European populations. "Given the fact that we serve a diverse patient population that includes a large number of Hispanics, we thought that this conference on infant hip deformities was crucial," said Dr. Azriel Benaroya, chief of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at Elmhurst Hospital Center. "We really want to alert the medical community, especially pediatricians and family doctors, that early ultrasound screening is an important factor in reducing incidences of DDH and the long-term, debilitating abnormalities that can affect children untreated for the disease."

Featured speakers at the conference included Dr. Reinhard Graf, a world renowned Austrian orthopedic surgeon and a pioneer in the use of ultrasonography to detect hip deformities in infants, as well as physicians from Germany and the UK. For more information please contact Atiya Butler, Assistant Director of External Affairs, at 718.334.1259 or by e-mail at atiya.butler@nychhc.org.

About Elmhurst Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of

Queens. The hospital is comprised of 545 beds and is a Level I Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911 Receiving Hospital. It is the premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Renal and Mental Health Services.

Elmhurst Hospital Center serves an area of approximately one million people. This community is recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Last year, EHC received 693,600 ambulatory care visits as well as receiving 130,042 Emergency Room visits making it one of the busiest ERs in New York City. Over 4,200 babies were delivered at Elmhurst last year alone-the most in this region. Ensuring accessible health care is our priority.