



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST CONTINUES MEDICAL PROGRESS AS THE STEM CELL ERA SPANS A DECADE

CHANDLER and GILBERT, Ariz. (November 6, 2008) – This week marks the 10-year anniversary of the first successful culture and isolation of human embryonic stem cells by famed researcher James Thompson, Ph.D. In that time, many advances have been made in this global field, including the development of autologous adult stem cell therapies.

Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, members of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), have partnered with one of the nation's most renowned cardiovascular researchers to lead the healthcare industry in finding ways to advance the utilization of adult non-embryonic stem cells that may have the potential to restore the health of patients who have no other available treatments.

“Our hospitals, along with Catholic healthcare ministries, have the opportunity to lead the health care transformation by developing programs for the latest advances in both prevention and treatment of disease,” said Nabil Dib, M.D., M.Sc., F.A.C.C., director of Cardiovascular Research for Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, who also serves as the president of the International Society for Cardiovascular Translational Research. “Our goal is to develop a cardiovascular research program aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of new therapies that may lead to treatments that will improve the health of patients in the future.”

“The work conducted by our scientists is a heroic example of CHW's mission to further our healing ministry,” said David G. Covert, President and CEO of the CHW East Valley Service Area and Chandler Regional Medical Center. “We are proud of this effort to improve the health and the lives of our patients through leading-edge research.” Covert notes that Chandler Regional Medical Center and Mercy Gilbert Medical Center are two of 33 hospitals and medical centers within the CHW system to be involved in medical research.

As with all clinical research, it's important for research volunteers to understand the general principles that apply to anyone taking part in the study:

- Participation is entirely voluntary;
- While research volunteers may not experience personal benefits as a result of taking part in the study, knowledge may be gained from their participation that may benefit others; and
- At any time, research volunteers may decide to discontinue their participation without any negative consequences.

For more information, please call 602.214.0886.

About Catholic Healthcare West

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) is the eighth largest hospital system in the nation and one of the largest not-for-profit hospital providers in the West. Founded in 1986, the CHW network of more than 8,500 physicians and approximately 50,000 employees serve a population spanning 22 million people at 43 hospitals across California, Arizona, and Nevada. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services with special attention to the poor and underserved. In fiscal year 2008, CHW provided nearly \$967 million in community benefit and free care for the poor. CHW facilities in Arizona include Chandler Regional Medical Center, Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and Barrow Neurological Institute, CHW Urgent Care centers in Ahwatukee, Gilbert and Queen Creek, Warner Outpatient Surgery and the Arizona Orthopedic Surgical Hospital. For more information, please visit www.chwHEALTH.org.

About Chandler Regional Medical Center

Chandler Regional Medical Center is a 225-bed, acute-care, non-for-profit provider of emergency care, cardiovascular services, maternal child services, wound healing, cancer treatment, diabetes treatment, and diagnostic services. It is located at 475 S. Dobson Road (corner of Dobson Road and Frye Road) in Chandler. For more information, please visit www.chandlerregional.org or call 480.728.3000. Chandler Regional Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities please contact the Human Resources Department at 480.728.3424. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact the ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414 or resourcelink@chw.edu.

About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is a four-story, full-service acute-care facility with 182 beds. For more information, please visit www.mercygilbert.org or call (480)728-8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For employment opportunities please contact the Human Resources Department at (480) 728-8396. For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact the ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414 or resourcelink@chw.edu.