



SickKids Foundation's First Rotman Award Winner Announced

\$100,000 Annual Prize Hits New Heights in Non-Profit Recognition and Rewards Innovation in Paediatric Home Care

June 12, 2006 -- Toronto: The winner of the newly created Rotman Award for Paediatric Home Care Innovation, created by SickKids Foundation and made possible through a generous donation by Janis Rotman, was announced this morning with the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, in attendance at the Hospital for Sick Children's Garden Patio.

Receiving the award was the Intensive Ambulatory Care Service (IACS) of the Montreal Children's Hospital, which provides alternatives to hospitalization for children with complex illnesses.

Other special guests included musicians Sharon, Lois and Bram who, in celebration of the Rotman Award, publicly reunited for the first time since Lois Lowenstein's retirement in 2000.

"Paediatric home care is what lets families be together during times when they most need to be together, bridging the gap between hospital and home, medical professional and parent," said Claire Fortier, Vice President, Grants & Finance, SickKids Foundation. "SickKids Foundation created The Rotman Award to recognize, support and further the best practices of those who work tirelessly in this demanding and vitally important field – and we are delighted that its first honoree is IACS, a pioneer and leader in paediatric home care."

Created by SickKids Foundation and made possible through a generous donation by Janis Rotman, The Rotman Award for Paediatric Home Care Innovation is the first Canadian award of its kind. It is also the largest annual recognition for best practice/excellence to a non-profit organization. Each year, \$100,000 will be given to one organization whose practices and vision embody the best in paediatric home care innovation. The goal of the award is to acknowledge and reward the winning institution for its innovation in home and community care practices, to promote the practices of the winning organization so that other organizations may learn from their best practices, and to further encourage excellence in the winning organization.

"It is accepted now that very ill children do better and are happier when they can be cared for at home by those they love," said Hema Patel, Acting Program Head of the Intensive Ambulatory Care Service. "Just over forty years ago, however, when IACS -- and Canadian paediatric home care -- was born, the idea was decidedly new, possibly radical

and decidedly innovative. We are grateful to SickKids Foundation and to Janis Rotman for creating an award whose goal it is to recognize and inspire innovation in paediatric home care, and IACS is deeply honoured to be its first recipient.”

Children and families from IACS and from other Canadian paediatric home care services were also on hand for the award ceremonies, including: Virginie Laurendeau, 11, a talented musician and winner of multiple medals at the 2005 Transplant Olympics (athletic competition for people who have had transplants) and Mathew Beare, 13, whose life has regained a sense of normalcy through paediatric home care following a lawnmower tractor accident that cost him much of his small and large intestines. IACS front line workers -- doctors and nurses who were celebrated by their peers across the country for their work to foster and further paediatric home care – were also in attendance.

Support provided by IACS allows youngsters in need of special care to receive treatment as outpatients or to stay at home, allowing them to remain with their families and stay as active and engaged in their lives as possible. IACS serves many diverse communities and cultures, including those considered remote. In keeping with the goals of the award, IACS wishes to deepen and further its services, including to distant areas.

The Rotman Award strives to reflect a number of core Canadian values that engage Canadians and define our nation: inclusion, equality, diversity, opportunity, community strength, and an ongoing investment in creative solutions, the care of children, and the evolution of our health services.

Intensive Ambulatory Care Service (IACS)

IACS is a multidisciplinary team that serves children with a wide variety of medical conditions. Its mission is to provide safe, effective and family-centred care to children with complex medical needs, on either a short or long term basis, in their own home environment. IACS seeks to improve the lives of its clients through maintaining and encouraging child/family autonomy, minimizing the physical and psychosocial impacts of intensive home care on the child and family, and to encourage the growth and development of every child. IACS aims to decrease unscheduled hospitalizations and emergency visits and to effectively coordinate the needs of the child/family with home, community and hospital services.

SickKids Foundation

SickKids Foundation was established in 1972. Its mission is to inspire its communities to invest in health and scientific advances to improve the lives of children and their families in Canada and around the world. Its vision is: “Healthier children. A better world.”

In addition to its support of The Hospital for Sick Children, the Foundation has a mandate to support children’s health on a national basis. Through its National Grants Program, SickKids Foundation invests \$3.5 million annually across Canada in paediatric research,

focusing on issues important to children's health which have not been addressed elsewhere.

Home and community care for children, youth and families is an area where research was virtually non-existent and, as the shift of care to the home increased, answers were needed with increasing urgency.