
American and Cuban Pediatricians to meet for the first time since normalization in Havana

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For the first time since the U.S. normalized relations with Cuba, a delegation of pediatricians co-led by Dr. Stephen Berman of Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado) and the Colorado School of Public Health, will travel to Havana to establish relationships with local physicians and collaborate on ways to improve child health in both countries.

During this historic meeting, which takes place from February 4-6, participants will share the medical progress made in the areas of newborn care, early childhood development and chronic health conditions in children. The American doctors will specifically share advances in early brain development and new approaches in promoting responsive parenting. And their Cuban counterparts will discuss their success in community-based primary care and decreasing the incidence of premature births.

"I am honored to co-lead this delegation of American doctors with Dr. James Perrin of Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital," said Berman, MD, director of the Center for Global Health at the Colorado School of Public Health in partnership with Children's Colorado. "The delegation of U.S. pediatricians is eager to hear from our Cuban counterparts about the progress they have made toward improving child health during this long period of isolation. We also hope to begin an ongoing collaboration while creating cross-national partnerships to improve the health of children in both of our countries."

Dr. Berman has traveled extensively in Cuba and counts many top pediatricians there as friends. When President Obama normalized relations with Cuba, Dr. Berman immediately contacted his colleagues there and set up this meeting – the first of its kind.

"As Cubans gain access to new medications and technology, training will become very important," Dr. Berman said. "We would like to eventually establish an exchange program so Cuban doctors can come and train here at Children's Colorado and vice versa."

The trip is sponsored jointly by the Cuban Pediatric Society (CPS), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Children's Colorado, and the Center for Global Health at the Colorado School of Public Health at CU Anschutz. The pediatricians traveling to Cuba are paying their own travel expenses to attend this historic meeting.

Both Drs. Berman and Perrin are past presidents of the AAP. The Cuban delegation will be headed by the past and current president of the Cuban Pediatric Society, Fernando Dominquez, MD and Gladys Abreu, MD respectively.

About the Center for Global Health

The Center for Global Health is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Colorado School of Public Health, the University of Colorado School of Medicine/Department of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Colorado, which enables them to leverage innovative and creative advances in the global standard of health through teaching, research, practice and service.

About Children's Hospital Colorado

Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado) has defined and delivered pediatric health care excellence for more than 100 years. Founded in 1908, Children's Colorado is a leading pediatric network entirely devoted to the health and well-being of children. Continually acknowledged as one of the nation's outstanding pediatric hospitals by U.S. News & World Report and ranked 5th on its Best Children's Hospitals 2015-16 Honor Roll, Children's Colorado is known for both its nationally and internationally recognized medical, research, education and advocacy programs, as well as comprehensive everyday care for kids throughout Colorado and surrounding states. For more information, visit www.childrenscolorado.org or connect Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.
