



Children's Hospital Boston

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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Children's Hospital Boston (CHB) and Children's Hospital Pediatric Associates (CHPA) have recently signed a very exciting collaboration agreement with a new company called Pediatric Weight Management Centers (PWMC). As part of this agreement, PWMC will be developing a comprehensive pediatric weight management program for 6 to 18 year old children called **Great Moves!** This program is based in part on the successful clinical strategies utilized in the Optimal Weight for Life (OWL) Program at Children's Hospital Boston directed by Dr. David Ludwig, is informed by clinical research findings, and will be supervised by a team of medical and clinical professionals with experience and expertise in pediatric weight management. Dr. Ludwig will serve as an advisory board member for Great Moves!

Great Moves! will be family based and medically supervised. Through group and individual consultations, the program will combine nutrition, behavior modification and peer support with physical activity and exercise to help achieve long lasting lifestyle changes in the children and families being served.

Medical services at the program will be directed by its Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Erinn Rhodes. Dr. Rhodes, a pediatric endocrinologist, is also the Director of the Type 2 Diabetes Program at Children's Hospital Boston and a physician in the OWL Program. All medical services at the program will be provided by CHPA physicians. Additional Staff will include nutritionists, behaviorists (e.g., psychologists, social workers) and exercise physiologists.

The first **Great Moves!** Center will be located in Newton and is expected to open in March 2008. This state of the art center will have a gym/activity center, a cooking demonstration kitchen, conference and group rooms, examination rooms and consultation rooms.

With the increasing prevalence of pediatric obesity, we recognize the need to find ways to make more services available to the physicians, families and most importantly the children in our community. This collaboration agreement provides an opportunity for us to facilitate the development of new services, which are accessible to families throughout the Boston area, while insuring that Children's Hospital Boston's standards of quality are met.

Representatives from the Great Moves! Program may contact you over the coming months to share more information about the program. If you have specific questions about the program, you can reach Dr. Rhodes at erinn.rhodes@greatmoves.com.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Fleisher, M.D.