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For immediate release

Media Release

Mom helps CHEO Doc Raise Money for Key Medication Research (Une maman appuie la recherche du CHEO par le biais d'une levée de fonds)

Ottawa –Dr. Guido Filler, CHEO's Head of Nephrology, is combining his expertise in kidney diseases with a pharmacology background to ensure that the dosages of medication they administer are tested on children. Marie-Claude Schryburt has two children who regularly visit CHEO's nephrology clinic. In recognition of the importance of research, for her children and others, she is raising money to help.

Recent controversy has brought to light that many medications children receive are not specifically tested for them. "It is not necessarily cost-effective for the pharmaceutical industry to test medications on children. As pediatricians we use the research at our disposal to make the best choices for our patients. We need better research however because children's metabolisms are not the same as adults," said Dr. Filler. "I am just doing what I think is in the best interest of the young patients I see. I am testing the medications we use to make sure that we are giving them the right dosage. It is a process unfortunately that costs money."

Mrs. Schryburt is organizing a scrap-booking event next month in the hopes of starting an annual fundraiser that will eventually make a difference, "My children are my motivation. Anything that can further the treatment and understanding of kidney diseases will eventually benefit them. I know that the research costs more than we can raise. But I want to do my part and I hope others will join me."

Dr. Filler has approached some potential sponsors with a plan to test DARBO (Darbepoietin alfa) a medication commonly given to children with chronic kidney disease. He hopes to see 60 patients and their families willing to participate in the study. Although the research is being designed to capitalize on tests the children already receive, the study is still expected to cost about \$40,000. "Parents hear about their children's medication not being specifically tested for them. They also need to hear that there is work underway to fill the gaps in the research," added Dr. Filler.

Anyone interested in joining Mrs Schryburt's scrap-booking event to be held on Saturday April 9th at the Pineview Golf Club can call 832-5597 before March 21st. The cost to register is \$20. All proceeds from the sale of scrap-booking supplies sold will also be donated.

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Marie-Claude Schryburt est disponible pour des entrevues en français

Dr. Filler is available Tuesday (today) between 1 and 3 pm

To arrange an interview contact Cecily Wallace
613 737-7600, ext. 2679 or paged at 613 593-3838

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