

Toronto draws together global leaders in Pediatric Critical Care medicine for World Congress

Toronto, ON: International experts in Pediatric Critical Care medicine are meeting in Toronto for an inspiring and premier meeting poised to foster both learning and collaboration across the field. The 8th World Congress of the World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies (WFPICCS) will take place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) from June 4 – 8. Physicians from the Department of Critical Care Medicine at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), one of the world's leading pediatric health care institutions, have been integral to the development of the Congress. With approximately 1,500 international delegates and speakers expected in attendance, this event is slated to bring an estimated \$4.3 million to Toronto's local economy, shine a global spotlight on the work of SickKids, and deepen partnerships across the field.

"The scientific content is a primary component of the World Congress, however throughout we have presented a strong theme of networking and shared learning for physicians, nurses, researchers, and all allied health professionals in Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care," said Dr. Peter Cox, WFPICCS Congress Scientific Committee Chair, Associate Chief and Division Head of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at SickKids. Cox also serves as an Ambassador for the Leaders Circle, a network of professionals across a spectrum of industries that works to bring international meetings to Toronto.

With approximately 240 international speakers and a compelling schedule of workshops, plenaries and scientific sessions awaiting Congress delegates, this year's meeting is set to inspire professionals to open a discourse on the latest findings and practices, and share insights. "This meeting offers an exciting and multifaceted agenda of scientific education and techniques on the care provided to children with critical illness and their families," added Dr. Peter Laussen, Chief of the Department of Critical Care Medicine at SickKids, who also serves as a Leaders Circle Ambassador and WFPICCS Congress Scientific Committee member. "Through this event we hope we can establish stronger networks all over the world so that people may better work together."

Established in 1997, WFPICCS was formed to unite international expertise and experience across the field of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. To date, seven world congresses have been held across the globe, all with the single goal of enhancing the knowledge of practitioners to allow them to provide the highest possible standard of care to children all over the world. This is the first time the premier event will be hosted in Toronto, a decision that followed a rigorous and competitive bidding process involving the combined efforts of WFPICCS, professional congress organizer Kenes International, Business Events Toronto, MTCC, and the Leaders Circle. Outstanding congress and support resources, and a global city reputation for producing leaders in the field worked together to reveal Toronto as the top destination of choice to host the 2016 congress.

"It is an honour to provide the backdrop and setting for this event, and we welcome international professionals devoted to caring for the world's most vulnerable children," said Barry Smith, President and CEO of MTCC. "On behalf of Toronto, I wish WFPICCS a highly productive meeting that creates enduring legacies and partnerships across the board."

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About the World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies

The World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies was established in Paris, in September 1997. It arose from the vision of several world leaders in the field of pediatric critical care who saw the opportunity to combine international expertise, experience and influence to improve the outcomes of children suffering from life threatening illness and injury. For more information, please visit www.wfpiccs.org.

About the Metro Toronto Convention Centre

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre is Canada's number one convention and trade show facility. Over the past 30 years, the Centre has hosted over 18,000 events, entertained more than 55 million guests and has added \$5.1 billion in direct spending to the community. For further information, please visit www.mtccc.com.

About the Leaders Circle

The Leaders Circle program partners with top thinkers, innovators, and researchers throughout the Toronto region to bring international meetings to the city. These meetings showcase Toronto as a place of innovation, excellence and opportunity. Supported by the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and Tourism Toronto, the Leaders Circle ensures Toronto hosts international meetings that provide a transfer of knowledge, build on the city's global reputation, promote innovation and ground breaking institutions, and leave a legacy of social and economic benefits to the city and region. For more, please visit www.theleaderscircle.ca.