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The Charles H. Hood Foundation Approves Special Measures to Complete 10 Critical Child Health Research Projects Threatened by Pandemic

November 30, 2020 – Boston – The Charles H. Hood Foundation, a family Foundation focused on enhancing the lives of children through pediatric research and innovation, recently approved supplemental funding assistance and additional special accommodations for current recipients of their Child Health Research Award funding whose work was threatened or halted by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

“The Hood Foundation is based on the premise that support of brilliant minds at critical phases of both scientific research and career path development helps propel the pediatric research community,” said Charlene Mancusi, Program Officer for the Charles H. Hood Foundation. “Our Trustees were concerned about how the pandemic would impact newer faculty, who already have more limited resources as they strive to establish themselves in their fields. It was important to ensure that their critical work was not derailed due to this unprecedented crisis.”

The Hood Foundation outlined two specific measures to support Child Health Awardees whose projects were in jeopardy:

1. Simplify the process and extend the period allowable for No-Cost Extensions, up to 12 months; and
2. Offer Awardees the option to apply for a limited amount of supplemental funding, depending on their specific needs.

“With a substantial but relatively modest investment of \$184,000 in supplemental funding assistance and the grant of No-Cost Extensions, the Foundation allowed ten significant child health research projects to continue despite the challenges of the pandemic,” said Barbara Bula, Trustee of the Charles H. Hood Foundation. “We encourage other funders to consider similar measures and we welcome any questions from anyone who would like more information on our process. By providing support measures to these critical researchers during these difficult times, cutting-edge research can continue.”

The impacted Hood Foundation Child Health Research Award recipients are working to advance treatment in areas such as ADHD, birth defects, childhood blindness, peanut allergies, and traumatic brain injuries, among others. These researchers represent prestigious organizations including Yale University, Massachusetts General Hospital, University of Massachusetts Medical School, and Boston Children's Hospital.

"COVID-19 required us to reevaluate our data collection and intervention procedures in order to ensure that they comply with social distancing guidelines and minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to patients, families, and study personnel," said Alisa Khan, M.D., M.P.H. at Boston Children's Hospital. "Additional funds from the Hood Foundation helped ensure that we successfully complete our project as planned."

About The Charles H. Hood Foundation

Since 1942, the Hood Foundation has carried on the legacy of founder Charles H. Hood by funding groundbreaking and innovative pediatric research in and around the New England area. The Foundation makes meaningful pediatric medical advancements possible by providing funding in the key stages of development, enabling high-impact projects to both begin and succeed earlier. Supporting brilliant minds early in their careers helps position promising researchers to secure long-term funding from other private and government sources, thereby building the talent pool of innovative medical researchers that will continue to impact the health and well-being of children and their families in New England and around the world. Visit www.charleshoodfoundation.org for more information.

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