

CHI Designates Eight Centers of Excellence (COE)

Glen Ridge, NJ, July 15, 2024 - Congenital Hyperinsulinism International (CHI) is excited to announce that eight centers have received the Hyperinsulinism Centers of Excellence (COE) designation. This honor recognizes centers that provide the highest level of multi-disciplinary care to individuals living with congenital hyperinsulinism (HI) and their families and an on-going commitment to research and collaboration.

“It is critical that HI is properly managed to control hypoglycemia that can lead to brain damage and other complications. The COE institutions all demonstrate the highest level of commitment to care. Additionally, collaboration is crucial to accelerate research and the medical teams at these eight institutions are leading collaborative global research for hyperinsulinism,” Julie Raskin, CHI Chief Executive Officer.

The newly awarded and re-designated centers are:

- Charite-Universitätsmedizin Berlin – Berlin, Germany
- Collaborative Alliance on Congenital Hyperinsulinism – Magdeburg, Germany
- Congenital Hyperinsulinism Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia –Philadelphia, PA, United States
- Great Ormond Street Hospital Congenital Hyperinsulinism Service – London, United Kingdom
- Northern Congenital Hyperinsulinism Service – Manchester and Liverpool, United Kingdom
- Odense University Hospital – Odense, Denmark
- The Hyperinsulinism Center at Cook Children's Medical Center – Fort Worth, TX, United States
- University Children's Hospital of Düsseldorf – Düsseldorf, Germany



The COE program launched in 2021 to designate specialist centers that demonstrate a consistent commitment to high-quality care, research, and on-going collaboration with other medical professionals and patient advocates. The designation application was developed by an international committee of HI specialists, clinicians, and patient/caregiver representatives who worked together to identify the requirements.

HI is the most frequent cause of severe, persistent hypoglycemia in newborn babies and children. In most countries it occurs in approximately 1/28,000. Prolonged hypoglycemia can lead to brain damage or even death.

The initial three years of the COE program have been characterized by increased global collaboration, a commitment to compassionate care, and mentorship to other specialists treating individuals living with HI globally. Looking into the future, this group of COEs will continue that

commitment and take advantage of additional opportunities to work together to pool data and improve health outcomes.

CHI looks forward to continuing to work with all these outstanding centers in support of the international hyperinsulinism community.

What COEs say about the CHI Centers of Excellence Designation Program:

“I am thrilled that the Congenital Hyperinsulinism Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) has again been recognized as a Center of Excellence by Congenital Hyperinsulinism International,” said Diva D. De León-Crutchlow, MD, Chief of CHOP’s Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes and Director of the Congenital HI Center at CHOP. “We are grateful to CHI for their longstanding commitment and support of our important work and look forward to providing the expert, collaborative care CHOP is known for to even more patients in the future.”

“This acknowledgment has served as a catalyst, inspiring us to redouble our efforts in providing superior care and engaging in collaborative research to explore innovative treatment modalities. Furthermore, the award provided us with the chance to collaborate with other Congenital Hyperinsulinism Centres of Excellence in research, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences in managing this rare disease,” said Dr. Antonia Dastamani, the Lead of the HI NHS Specialized Service as the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

“At Odense University Hospital, we have developed a long-standing special focus on research and clinical management of HI in close collaboration with international researchers and CHI, which has brought dedicated hyperinsulinism centers more together. The designation as COE will strengthen our position as a national and international hyperinsulinism center in both clinical and research context. We are honored to be selected for this acknowledgement and look forward to future international collaboration to improve the diagnosis and management of children with hyperinsulinism”. – Henrik Christesen, Consultant and Professor at Hans Christian Andersen Children’s Hospital, Odense University Hospital.

“It is a privilege to be a CHI Center of Excellence, showcasing the highest standards of care and pushing boundaries of research and innovation in hyperinsulinism. We are grateful to our children and families living with the condition for urging our team of nurses, doctors, dietitians, speech and language therapists and surgeons to strive for excellence”. – Indi Banerjee, Pediatric Endocrinologist at Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, Clinical Lead for the Northern Congenital Hyperinsulinism Service.

“It is an honor to be recognized and be validated for the hard work our HI team has done in caring for both our local and the national HI community,” Dr. Paul Thornton, Director of the HI Center at Cook Children’s Medical Center. “Being named a center of excellence has helped us promote our center and ensure the trust of the new referring families. Our new patients have told us that the designation provides them with a sense of confidence, knowing that they are at a multi-disciplinary HI center that delivers the highest level of care and the newest research regarding HI.”

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About CHI

CHI, a 501(c)3, is a global organization dedicated to supporting children and adults born with HI. CHI is a leading source of funding for research for better treatments and cures, and the foremost advocate for increased awareness and better medical protocols for HI to reduce preventable brain damage and death from prolonged hypoglycemia.

Contact

For more information about the COE program, please visit www.congenitalhi.org/the-chi-centers-of-excellence-coe-program. You may also contact Tai Pasquini, CHI Chief Research Officer, at tpasquini@congenitalhi.org or call 973-544-8372.