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HCHD's BEN TAUB HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES NEW CRITICAL CARE FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Newly Renovated MICU Waiting Area Unveiled

(NORTHBROOK, IL, Jan. 21, 2004) – The Harris County Hospital District's (HCHD) Ben Taub General Hospital announced today the grand opening of its renovated medical intensive care unit (MICU) waiting room. The waiting area is part of the hospital's a new critical care program, Project FAIR – Families Assisting in Recovery. Project FAIR was made possible through a \$104,000 grant from The CHEST Foundation and the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation.

“Families who have loved ones in our unit need a lot of support. We're here to make a difference and to help them cope,” said Project FAIR Director Kalapatha Guntupalli, MD, FCCP, Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care and Director of the MICU at Ben Taub General Hospital. “When I saw this grant, I immediately thought of our patients. They are vulnerable and have fewer resources and choices than patients in private hospitals. The grant will help us improve patient care through improving families' comprehension of care provided by the health-care team in the intensive care unit.”

Project FAIR was established to provide out-of-town families with stronger support and resources during a family member's MICU stay. With additional funds provided by the HCHD, Ben Taub transformed its once basic MICU waiting area into the cornerstone

of Project FAIR, which includes such resources as a computer station with disease information; a kiosk with multi-lingual patient/family education materials; hotel, meal, and transportation vouchers; a children's corner; and an evening and weekend social worker. Project FAIR is one of five U.S. hospital-based programs modeled after The CHEST Foundation Critical Care Family Assistance Program, developed in 2001 to respond to the unmet needs of families of critically ill patients in hospital intensive care units.

"With this grant we have been able to expand Social Work coverage in the MICU. This allows us to provide additional support to families during the evening and on weekends which optimizes the quality of care available to critically ill patients," said Wendy McNamara, LMSW-ACP, Program Coordinator, Ben Taub General Hospital.

The Harris County Hospital District is the fourth largest metropolitan public healthcare system in the United States. The system comprises three hospitals – Ben Taub, Lyndon B. Johnson and Quentin Mease – 11 community health centers, 13 satellite clinics in homeless shelters, an HIV/AIDS clinic, a dental center, four school-based clinics and five mobile health units.

The CHEST Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) whose mission is to improve lung health for patients and communities through education focused on public health issues. For more information about The CHEST Foundation, please visit the Foundation Web site at www.chestfoundation.org.

Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, established in 1968, is a nonprofit corporation made possible by the profits of Eli Lilly and Company. It is the major source of the company's support for nonprofit organizations. The Foundation's contributions place Lilly among the top 10 most generous companies in the world.

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