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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President  
**From:** Richard L. Williamson  
Chair, Faculty Senate   
**Date:** September 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2011-05(B) – Establishment of the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

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At its September 21, 2011 meeting, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the proposal to establish the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine for five years and any extensions thereafter.<sup>1</sup>

The supporting materials are enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

RW/rh

Enclosure


cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Pascal Goldschmidt, Senior Vice President and Dean, Miller School of Medicine  
Jennifer McCafferty-Cepero, Presenter, Miller School of Medicine  
Fred Telischi, Director, Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center Chair, Otolaryngology, Miller School of Medicine

<sup>1</sup> C18.2.2 Other NAMED or TITLED ACADEMIC UNITS [such as school-level Centers and Institutes] established under Bylaw 6.6 may be approved by the Faculty Senate and the President. For each such approved unit, the Executive Vice-President and Provost shall consult with the dean of the host school at five year intervals to determine whether the unit remains active and shall report to the Faculty Senate the names of those that should be disestablished.

C18.2.3 Periodic five year reviews may be conducted on all programs, centers, institutes and similar academic units as deemed appropriate by the Faculty Senate or the Executive Vice-President and Provost.

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate #2011-05(B) – Establishment of the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 10/3/11  
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN GOLDSCHMIDT

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY  
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_



## Proposal to Establish the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

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### **Mission**

The goal of the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center is to have a direct impact on transitioning deaf children from a silent world into a hearing world of sound and life, through the use of cochlear implant technology and auditory verbal therapy. The Center creates a seamless process that takes into account the social and emotional aspects of deaf children and their families while providing the most current medical technology.

### **Background**

After receiving \$5 million from the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation to meet the pressing needs of the Cochlear Implant Program within the Department of Otolaryngology's University of Miami Ear Institute (UMEI), The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center was granted provisional status by the Faculty Senate, opening its doors on September 7. This proposal seeks to formally establish the Center. The gift for the Center was inspired when events expert Barton G. Weiss' daughter, Jadin, was born profoundly deaf and was treated by Dr. Thomas Balkany, Director of the



University of Miami Ear Institute. Mr. Weiss wanted to create a place to help deaf children and their families before and after receiving cochlear implants.

Just a little over a decade ago, there was little hope for a child born deaf. But today, cochlear implantation surgery can provide a child who is born deaf with the ability to hear. One of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in the country, the UMEI was established in 1990 and has helped restore hearing to more than 1,200 deaf children and adults. The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center builds upon the strengths of the UMEI and its expertise in cochlear implants for clinical care and research. The vision for the UMEI is to become one of the premiere centers in the world for cochlear implants.

In addition to sharing the expertise of the Cochlear Implant Program, the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center also benefits from resources within the UMEI, including a) staff in the Division of Audiology, the Hearing Aid Center, and the Tinnitus Clinic; b) diagnostic services including vestibular and balance evaluations; c) experts in Meniere's Disease; and d) surgeons skilled not only in surgery for hearing loss, but also in procedures for ear infections, chronic ear disease, and removing tumors of the ear and temporal bone skull base.


The Department of Otolaryngology is one of the busiest departments of its kind in the United States due, in part, to the Cochlear Implant Program. The Department has been one of the nation's leading hubs for the treatment of diseases of the ears, nose, throat and neck for over forty five years. Consistently ranked as a top specialty program by *U.S. News & World Report*, its national reputation continues to grow significantly.

## **Services and Programs**

The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center is a home for deaf children and their families and is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children with hearing loss. The diagnosis of deafness can be devastating, and families of hearing impaired children face unique challenges. When a family leaves the hospital with a newly diagnosed deaf newborn, they often have little knowledge about hearing impairment and the options available to them. Therefore, the Center is uniquely positioned to improve patient outcomes through the services and programs described below.

### **Psychological Services & Pre- and Post-Surgical Counseling**

The Center delivers high caliber, state-of-the-art, patient-centered, individual and family treatment, including speech and auditory verbal therapy, as well as clinical counseling by a psychologist, and pre- and post-cochlear implant surgery counseling by professionals with extensive experience working with hearing loss who understand its ramifications and family challenges. To this extent, the Center provides newly diagnosed and continuing hearing-challenged children and their families with information, education, counseling, guidance, support and resources about hearing disabilities and more specifically about cochlear implant technology.



## **Resource Library**

Patients can browse a resource library containing educational books and videos about hearing loss, cochlear implants, hearing aids, autism, children with special needs, parenting, and auditory-verbal therapy. The library also includes contact information for community support services and agencies.

## **Web-Based Resources & Center Website**

The Center houses a computer with internet access bookmarked to answer questions about hearing loss and cochlear implants. Additionally, a Center website that is accessible online provides similar information, education, guidance, and resources.

## **Mentoring**

A mentoring program coordinated through the Center introduces newly diagnosed and implanted patients and their families to others who have successfully utilized cochlear implants.

## **Support Groups & Outreach**

The Center facilitates support groups that connect individuals and families to others with a similar diagnosis. Educational webinars and support groups are available for families in English and Spanish with topics that vary according to patient needs.

## **Advocacy**

Pursuant to school and parental consent, Center staff interact with and guide teachers and school administrators to ensure that patients obtain the necessary tools and assistance to matriculate and fully participate in mainstream classrooms.

## **Organization**

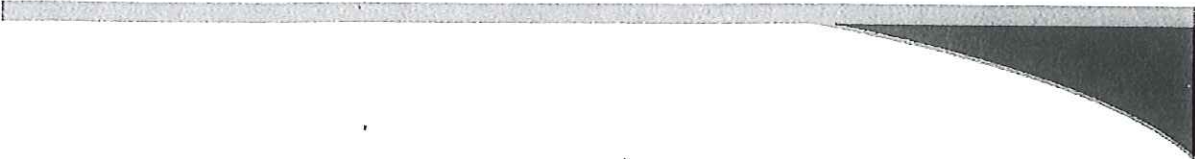
### **Leadership**

The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center is directed by Dr. Fred Telischi, M.E.E, M.D., FACS, Chairman of Otolaryngology and Professor of Otolaryngology, Neurological Surgery, and Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Telischi has 20 years of experience with cochlear implantation and has helped start many cochlear implant centers internationally, performing their first surgeries. He chairs the largest national cochlear implant surgeon study group, the William F. House Cochlear Implant Study Group. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health Deafness and Communications Disorders section, the Deafness Research Foundation, the University of Miami, and medical device companies (including those for cochlear implants).

Dr. Telischi holds monthly team meetings for physicians and Center staff in order to effectively and efficiently determine treatment options, identify patient care issues and designate appropriate follow-up.

### **Professional Staff**

The Center is staffed by a team of professionals committed to empowering and supporting parents and families of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The Center Director, Audiologist, Psychologist, and



Auditory-Verbal Therapist work collaboratively, regularly consulting and interacting with each other in order to effectively guide families. They emphasize a team approach to treating, training, evaluating and following-up with children with cochlear implants and their families.

### **Membership**

The Center openly seeks and supports research and activities related to its mission and does not have formal members. Per University of Miami policy all faculty and voluntary physicians are required to have an appointment through a Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine Department. University faculty interested in affiliating with the Center can contact Dr. Telischi.

### **Space**

The Center is housed on the fifth floor of the Clinical Research Building on the Miller School campus. It includes high-tech offices for diagnostic and treatment visits and the Barton G. Weiss Conference Room (office number 587). No additional space is required for Center activities.

### **Funding Sources and Budget Projections**

The Center is funded through the generosity of the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation (initial gift \$5 million). As the activities were developed in relation to the available philanthropic sources, it is anticipated that the cost of Center operations will not expand without new sources of revenue.

**Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant  
Family Resource Center  
Budget Projections**

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Budget information redacted from on-line version of this legislation.



## **Appendix A: Press Release Announcing Gift from Barton G.’s Foundation**

April 27, 2010 — A name synonymous with some of the Miami area’s most elegant venues and memorable culinary experiences is now linked to one of the nation’s premier cochlear implant programs, at the [Miller School of Medicine’s Ear Institute](#).

On Thursday, April 22, noted restaurateur Barton G. Weiss revealed that The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation has committed \$5 million to establish [The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center](#).

Weiss made the announcement at the Clinical Research Building during a morning news conference attended by UM President Donna E. Shalala, Miller School Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, UM Ear Institute Director Thomas Balkany, and Miller School [Department of Otolaryngology](#) Chair Fred Telischi.

Weiss, whose Barton G. company is renowned for its event-management, restaurants, and off-site catering prowess, has a three-year-old daughter, Jadin, who was born unable to hear. Today, Jadin is not only hearing, but she converses in English and Spanish thanks to a cochlear implant procedure performed by Balkany.


“Three years ago my world was turned upside down when my daughter was born profoundly deaf,” Weiss said. “It left me feeling helpless, overwhelmed, and filled with fear. So today really is a dream come true.

“I am honored to help establish The Barton G. Kids Hear Now [Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center](#),” Weiss said. “My hope is that this will allow all families, regardless of their social or economic background, to have a resource, as well as support. My deepest appreciation goes to Dr. Thomas Balkany, who was the surgeon who implanted my daughter—she’s a little chatterbox!” Weiss said to laughter from an audience of roughly 100 people that included many media representatives.

“It is a pleasure to be here today with my good friend Barton G. Weiss, a longtime supporter and friend of the University of Miami,” Shalala said. “Over the years, Barton has donated not only resources, but also his talent and time. Today he has taken that support a step further by making an incredible gift to the Miller School of Medicine.”

The goal of The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation, which Weiss launched in 2008, is to have a direct impact on transitioning deaf children from an existence without sound to a hearing world through the use of cochlear implant technology.

“When a child is born deaf, a cochlear implant can restore hearing and enable a child to develop normal speech, when the procedure is performed at the appropriate time,” Dean Goldschmidt said. “Barton G. Weiss knows firsthand what a parent faces when they learn their child is deaf, and that is why he formed



The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation—so no other parent will have to go through the process alone.”

Balkany noted that the UM Ear Institute will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. “May is better hearing and speech month, and now we really have something exciting to celebrate as well, and that’s the Family Resource Center, as presented by The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation,” Balkany said.

Another Balkany cochlear implant patient, Michael Lefkowitz, 14, keenly appreciated why the families of children eligible for implantation might find The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Family Resource Center uplifting.

“If parents find out that their child is deaf, they don’t have anywhere to go,” said Michael, an eighth-grader who is on his school’s debate team and wants to be a lawyer. The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation Family Resource Center “will give people a guiding arm to help them through the process,” he added.

From a clinical standpoint, The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation Family Resource Center will make additional auditory verbal therapists, audiologists, and psychologists available to young cochlear implant patients, according to Department of Otolaryngology Chair Telischi.

“The Family Resource Center will ensure that patients and families will continue to receive state-of-the-art patient- and family-centered care,” Telischi said.



Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D.  
*Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean  
Chief Executive Officer, University of Miami Health System*

## Memorandum

**To:** Robyn Hardeman  
*Secretary of the Faculty Senate*

**From:** Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D.  
*Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean  
Chief Executive Officer, University of Miami Health System*

**Date:** April 15, 2011

**Subject:** Support for the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center

PJS

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This memo requests support from the Faculty Senate to formally establish the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. The Center assists cochlear implant patients and their families with the myriad of issues facing them including recovery from surgery, psychosocial adjustment, lifelong habilitation, and ongoing education and community support. Contributing to the core mission of the Miller School and the University, the Center provides high-quality care and community partnership, as well as excellence in medical education to residents.

Dr. Fred Telischi, Chairman of Otolaryngology and Professor of Otolaryngology, Neurological Surgery, and Biomedical Engineering, is uniquely suited to direct the Center staff, a team of professionals including an Audiologist, Psychologist, and Auditory-Verbal Therapist. Working collaboratively, they are committed to empowering and supporting parents and families of those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

The Center is funded through the generous gift from the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Foundation. As the activities were developed in relation to the available philanthropic sources, it is anticipated that the cost of Center operations will not expand without new sources of revenue. In fact, Dr. Telischi and his team are already hard at work to identify new partners in supporting the important work of the Center and I do not anticipate any issues with sustaining this effort.

I fully endorse formally establishing the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center. It is a timely addition to the Miller School and the faculty and I am committed to its success in making a difference in the lives of children with hearing loss.

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## Memorandum

**To:** Robyn Hardeman  
*Secretary of the Faculty Senate*

**From:** Fred Telischi, M.D.  
*Chairman of Otolaryngology*  
*Director of The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center*  
*Professor of Otolaryngology, Neurological Surgery, and Biomedical Engineering*

**Date:** April 15, 2011

**Subject:** Support for the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center

As Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, I am writing to support the proposal to formally establish The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center. As Director of the Center, as well as Chairman of the Department, I can attest that the Center's goal, to transition deaf children from a silent world into a hearing world of sound and life through the use of cochlear implant technology, strategically complements the Department's vision: to become one of the premiere centers in the world for cochlear implants.

One of the most comprehensive programs of its kind in the country, the Department of Otolaryngology and UM Ear Institute has helped restore hearing to more than 1,200 deaf children and adults since 1990. The Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center builds upon the strengths of the UMEI and its experience in using cochlear implants for clinical care and research.

In addition to sharing the expertise of the Cochlear Implant Program, the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center also benefits from other resources within The Department of Otolaryngology, which has been one of the nation's leading hubs for the treatment of diseases of the ears, nose, throat and neck for over forty five years and is consistently ranked as a top specialty program by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The faculty of the Department enthusiastically supports formally establishing the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center. We are committed to creating a seamless process that takes into account the social and emotional aspects of deaf children and their families while providing the most current cochlear implant technology and state-of-the-art care.

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Norman H. Altman, V.M.D.  
Speaker, School Faculty Council

DATE: July 22, 2011

RE: Establishment of Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center

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The Miller School of Medicine Faculty School Council met on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 and reviewed the proposal presented by Dr. Jennifer Mc-Cafferty-Cepero for the creation of the Barton G. Kids Hear Now Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center. The Council members voted unanimously to approve the creation of this center.

Should you have any questions, please give me a call at 305-243-6551 or email me at [crobinson@med.miami.edu](mailto:crobinson@med.miami.edu).

Thank you,

Conswella Robinson, Secretary 

Faculty Council