

NEWS RELEASE Contact: PamBarber/MaryEllenPeacock/ErinPope
Marketing/Public Relations
Nationwide Children's Hospital

For Release: _____ (614) 355-0495

**NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHOSEN AS
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR BATTEN DISEASE**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Nationwide Children's Hospital has been selected as a Center of Excellence for Batten Disease by the Batten Disease Support and Research Association (BDSRA).

BDSRA currently has designated three Batten Disease Centers of Excellence in the U.S. and is working to select others. Families who attend a BDSRA Center of Excellence will receive care from the lead pediatric neurologist as well as other healthcare professionals including nurses, social workers and genetic counselors. Patients will also be able to receive consultations from other medical specialists such as cardiologists, pulmonologists and gastroenterologists. The goal of a Center of Excellence is to assure that patients and their families receive comprehensive quality care to meet all of their needs.

Neurosciences at Nationwide Children's Hospital offers treatment and services for a wide range of conditions that can stem from genetic abnormalities or immune system deficiencies, to injury to the brain or nervous system that cause neurological disorders and diseases. Nationwide Children's offers complete diagnostic capabilities and treatment including 24 hour inpatient EEG monitoring, MRI, CT, outpatient EEG, ADHD testing and developmental/behavioral screening. The Neurology Division at Nationwide Children's Hospital provides subspecialty evaluations and care for children through age 21 who have conditions affecting the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord), nerves and muscles. Division members have subspecialty training and provide comprehensive, family-centered care in addition to participating in clinical and basic-science research programs. The Division of Child Neurology at Nationwide Children's Hospital is recognized as a leader in pediatric neurological disorders.

Established in 1987 by a group of parents seeking strength and support, BDSRA focuses on providing information, supporting families and promoting research efforts. It is the only family support organization specific to Batten Disease. Batten Disease is also known as Spielmeyer-Vogt-Sjogren-Batten Disease and is the most common form of a group of disorders called Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses (or NCLs). The forms of NCL are classified by age of onset and have the same basic cause, progression and outcome, but are all genetically different. Over time, affected children suffer mental impairment, worsening seizures and progressive loss of sight and motor skills. Eventually, children with Batten Disease/NCL become blind, bedridden and unable to communicate, and the disease is presently always fatal.

Additional information about BDSRA can be found at bdsra.org. Additional information about Neurology services at Nationwide Children's Hospital can be found at nationwidechildrens.org/neurology.