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**Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative and UNICEF
partner around children and AIDS**

*Partnership will focus on prevention of mother-to-child transmission and
pediatric treatment of children living with HIV*

NEW YORK – (Nov. 16, 2006) -- UNICEF and the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative announced the creation of a new partnership to accelerate the scaling-up of pediatric HIV care, treatment and support. The partnership is part of the global *Unite for Children. Unite against AIDS* campaign towards an AIDS-free generation and will focus on prevention of mother-to-child transmission and pediatric care and treatment of children living with HIV.

'This new partnership with UNICEF will strengthen BIPAI's ability to deliver the highest quality care and treatment to tens of thousands of HIV-infected children across Africa and around the world,' said Dr. Mark Kline, president of BIPAI at Baylor College of Medicine. 'In turn, BIPAI hopes to help UNICEF achieve the ambitious goals it has set for prevention and treatment of pediatric HIV/AIDS worldwide.'

Kline is a professor of pediatrics at BCM and chief of retrovirology at Texas Children's Hospital.

Currently, less than 10 percent of HIV-positive children in need of treatment are being treated and less than 10 percent of HIV-positive pregnant women receive drug therapies to prevent the transmission of HIV to their infants.

UNICEF and BIPAI will work with national governments to expand pediatric HIV care and treatment initiatives to achieve the following four goals:

- Strengthen technical support to countries with high HIV-prevalence, especially around prevention of mother-to-child transmission and pediatric HIV care and treatment;

- Through BIPAI's mentoring programs and HIV curriculum, train health care workers to improve clinical management of pediatric HIV so that children can be treated close to where they live;
- Provide high-quality care, including cotrimoxazole prophylaxis and ART, to reduce mortality among HIV-infected infants and children;
- Early identification of HIV-infected children to initiate treatment prior to the onset of severe disease through follow-up of known HIV-exposed infants as well as children presenting sick.

The partnership was announced at an official ceremony at UNICEF House, where UNICEF's Alan Court and BIPAI President Dr. Mark Kline signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration at global and country levels to support achievement of MDG 6 and MDG 8.

Attention broadcasters: B-roll of this event is available at www.thenewsmarket.com/unicef

About Baylor College of Medicine's International Pediatric AIDS Initiative

BIPAI was established in 1996 to foster international HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment, health professional education, and clinical research. It has rapidly grown to become the largest university-based program worldwide dedicated to improving the health and lives of HIV-infected children and families. Earlier this year, BIPAI sent 50 physicians to clinics throughout Africa as part of the Pediatric AIDS Corps program.

About UNICEF

For 60 years UNICEF has been the world's leader for children, working on the ground in 156 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

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