



St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

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Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center Expands to Become Most Comprehensive in Nation

"The Greatest" Center Expected to Treat 1,600 New Patients Annually

Muhammad Ali continued the fight today, celebrating the launch of the nation's most comprehensive Parkinson's disease facility, the new Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix.

With about 60,000 new cases diagnosed each year, there are currently 1 million Americans with Parkinson's disease. As of yet, there is no cure. Ali, who is a three-time Heavy Weight Boxing Champion and the most famous athlete in history, attended the grand opening event. He was diagnosed with the disease in 1984.

Physicians at the new 10,000 square-foot facility are expected to see about 1,600 new patients annually, double the current number and thousands more patients and their families are expected to attend one of the center's numerous classes, support groups or exercise activities. The original center has drawn individuals from across the United States since it opened in 1997. Patients not only see the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center's leading neurologists, but have access to Barrow's renowned neurosurgeons. The center offers care for many movement disorders, in addition to Parkinson's disease.

"When the original center opened at Barrow, we knew that we were embarking on a historic project that would change many lives," said Dr. Abraham Lieberman, Director of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center at Barrow located at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. "Thousands of people have come to the Ali Parkinson Center for help and hope. Muhammad is 'the Greatest,' and with our tremendous medical team and researchers and our unparalleled community programs, this center is truly a reflection of Muhammad's greatness and Barrow's reputation."

The expansive, state-of-the-art facility is double the size of the original center and brings together medical, rehabilitation, social and educational services and research in one location. It has been named a Center of Excellence by the National Parkinson's Foundation. Highly competitive and selective, the designation is held only at 27 other hospitals in the United States.

Along with his wife, Lonnie, other celebrities and hundreds of well wishers, Ali toured the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center, stopping to talk and clown with the medical team.

"Muhammad and I are delighted to share in the excitement of the grand opening of this new Center," said Lonnie. "Our overriding goal is to help patients and their families to live full and productive lives. This disease has been a journey for us and we have received a lot of help along the way. Our hope is that this center helps many others in their journey."

The new \$4 million Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center is located in the Lonnie and Muhammad Ali Pavilion and includes: 10 exam rooms, a tremor exam room, a Botulinum toxin treatment room, a tilt room to help evaluate patients with orthostatic hypertension and a balance lab. It features physical, occupational, and speech therapy rooms, a multipurpose room for education and recreation, a resource room with books, videos and computers and a store featuring educational materials and equipment.

“I believe this center is a model nationally and internationally for providing integrated care,” said Linda Hunt, CHW service area president and president of the St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center. “Combined with our neurosurgeons offering treatments like deep brain stimulation, this center is unsurpassed.”

Critical to the success of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center is its broad bi-lingual activity and education programming which includes programs such as: **caregiver education, Tai Chi, ballroom dancing and golf therapy**. The Parkinson’s Disease Registry, developed and headquartered at Center, is a national database for persons with Parkinson’s disease and is used globally by researchers and healthcare services.

The Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center is funded by donations. Its primary funding source is Celebrity Fight Night, an annual star-studded event that is attended by the Ali’s. At the grand opening it was announced that the Lonnie and Muhammad Ali have established a fund at the Arizona Community Foundation to support the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center. Additionally, an endowed fellowship, the Harold and Jean Grossman Israeli Fellowship Program, was announced. The fellowship gives an Israeli neurologist the opportunity to work at the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and teach the Barrow residents and fellows. Arizona Diamondbacks outfielder Justin Upton also announced plans for a celebrity baseball game at Chase Field to be auctioned off at Fight Night in 2010 to support the center.

—St. Joseph’s—

Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, is internationally recognized as a leader in neurological research and patient care. Established in 1962 Barrow treats patients with a wide range of neurological conditions, including brain and spinal tumors, cerebrovascular conditions, and neuromuscular disorders. Barrow Neurological Institute is consistently rated among the Top 10 best hospitals in the United States for neurology and neurosurgery by U.S. News and World Report.