

**For Immediate Release:  
September 17, 2002**

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL  
CENTER OPEN NEW SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY CLINIC**

**WHEN & WHERE: Tuesday, September 17, Noon  
Harkness Pavilion  
180 Fort Washington Avenue  
New York NY**

**WHAT:** The Departments of Neurology Columbia University and at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center are celebrating the opening of the SMA (spinal muscular atrophy) Clinic, a center devoted to the treatment and management of a group of diseases that affect motor neurons of the spinal cord and brain stem. SMA is the most common genetically determined cause of infant death. Thanks to the generosity of Dinaker Singh and Lauren Eng, parents of SMA sufferer Arya Singh, this clinic is poised to become a regional and national leader in the field linked to local and national research programs that offer new hope to families struggling with these disorders. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and refreshments will be served

**WHO:** Dr. Timothy A. Pedley, chairman, Department of Neurology, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons; chairman, Department of Neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center

Dr. Darryl C. DeVivo, Sidney Carter Professor of Neurology, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons; director, MDA Pediatric Neuromuscular Center at Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian

Dr. Petra Kaufmann, assistant professor of neurology, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons; associate director, Pediatric MDA Neuromuscular Center at Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian

Dr. Marc Patterson, professor of clinical neurology, professor of clinical pediatrics, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons; director, Department of Pediatric Neurology at the Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian

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