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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NATIONAL PARKINSON FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THREE NEW CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

New Centers Join *Fight Against Parkinson*, Lead in Groundbreaking Research and Innovative Care

MIAMI – (June 20, 2006) – The National Parkinson Foundation (NPF) announced today three newly approved Centers of Excellence, a designation awarded by NPF to healthcare institutions that meet criteria for excellence in Parkinson-related research, comprehensive care and outreach. The new centers are:

- *University of Michigan* (Ann Arbor, MI)
- *University of Chicago Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders* (Chicago, IL)
- *Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Centre, National Neuroscience Institute* (Singapore)

"A Center of Excellence is chosen because it is a regional hub and leader in the provision of innovative models, setting a gold standard for care, outreach, and research," said Jose Garcia-Pedrosa, chief operating officer of NPF. "Additionally, each Center must also share our commitment to developing comprehensive interdisciplinary teams that will interact holistically with each other."

NPF has also designated two new Care Centers and one new Outreach Center. The Booth Gardner Parkinson's Care Center in Kirkland, Wash., and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority in Winnipeg, Manitoba, will now serve as NPF Care Centers, devoted to providing both comprehensive care and outreach for Parkinson disease. The University of Buffalo in Buffalo, NY has been designated as an NPF Outreach Center, providing direct support and services to address the unique challenges faced by the patients and families living in communities within the surrounding areas.

Currently, NPF has a total of 36 Centers of Excellence, 10 Care Centers, and 8 Outreach Centers located at premier medical and academic institutions throughout the world. This year alone, NPF has awarded a total of 86 grants to its Centers, accounting for over \$5.1 million.

Founded in 1957 and headquartered in Miami, the National Parkinson Foundation's dual mission is to find the cause of and cure for Parkinson disease and to improve the quality of life for those afflicted with the debilitating disease. NPF has invested over \$100 million in research and is equally dedicated to providing care, education and support services for persons whose lives are affected by Parkinson. Currently, the centerpiece of NPF's research, care and delivery system is its international network of 53 institutions worldwide that have achieved designation as NPF Centers of Excellence, Care Centers and Outreach Centers and through its 41 affiliated Chapters.

For a complete list of all NPF Centers and affiliated Chapters or to learn more about NPF's designation criteria, visit [www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org).