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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Progeria Research Foundation Teams Up with Boston Bruins Players
to Identify Children with Rare Disease**

*Players Record Public Service Announcements to Help Find Children with Progeria
in Eastern Europe*

BOSTON, MA (August 9, 2011) –[The Progeria Research Foundation](http://www.progeriaresearch.org) (PRF) has joined forces with members of the Boston Bruins, to support PRF's worldwide campaign to find children with Progeria. Progeria is a rare and fatal childhood premature aging disease. Children with Progeria die of heart attacks or strokes at an average age of 13 years.

This new endeavor will expand outreach efforts by distributing Public Service Announcements (PSAs) done by Boston Bruins players to the Czech Republic, Finland, Serbia, Slovakia and Canada, the home countries of some members of the team and their families. PSA distribution and outreach efforts in these countries will begin in July.

Players participating in this campaign include Captain Zdeno Chara from Slovakia; David Krejci from the Czech Republic; Milan Lucic from Serbia and Canada; and Tuukka Rask from Finland.

Despite differing ethnicities and racial backgrounds, children with Progeria have remarkably similar appearances. However, because the disease is so rare, most doctors and the general population do not recognize Progeria. Many children go through their lives unidentified, untreated and unable to access the help PRF provides, including treatment guidance, communication with their local physicians, and assistance with clinical treatment trials.

"The campaign has been remarkably successful in the countries where PRF has been able to penetrate; however, central and eastern Europe remain a challenge," said Audrey Gordon, President and Executive Director, PRF. "Partnering with the Boston Bruins players from these countries gives us the unique opportunity to work with these amazing athletes to raise awareness about Progeria. In order to help the children, we must find them. With the players' help, we are confident that PRF will find children with Progeria in Eastern European countries."

Progeria is extremely rare, and always fatal. When the Find the Other 150 campaign began, PRF had identified 54 children from 30 countries. However, experts estimated that another 150 children with Progeria were living elsewhere in the world, and the families of these children do not know about The Progeria Research Foundation and the help it provides. PRF launched the Find the Other 150 Campaign, www.findtheother150.org, and in just 19 months 26 children from 12 countries were identified, bringing the total number of known children with Progeria to an unprecedented 80 – a 48% increase. Finding these children allows PRF to provide them with the unique and essential care they need, and significantly furthers medical research to develop treatments and a cure for this fatal premature aging disease.

About The Progeria Research Foundation

The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation established in 1999 to find the cause, treatment and cure for Progeria – a rapid aging disease that causes children to die from heart disease or stroke at an average age of 13 years. Over the past 12 years, research conducted in partnership with PRF has identified the gene that causes Progeria and possible treatments. PRF is now funding first-ever Progeria clinical drug trials, currently underway at Children’s Hospital Boston. Discovering more about Progeria and its links to aging and heart disease may not only help children with Progeria, but may help millions of aging individuals suffering from heart disease. To learn more about Progeria and what you can do to help, please visit www.progeriaresearch.org .

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