

# HOW DO YOU FEEL?



**ONE GREAT, BIG, INTERNATIONAL FAMILY**—The Wilson family includes 3 biological children, 2 brothers adopted from Ethiopia, and two boys from China. The family is in the process of adopting another child from China and utilizing the services of the newly established International Adoption and Travel Clinic at UCLA's Mattel Children's Hospital.

## UCLA Program Offers Medical Guidance To Parents For International Adoptions

With thousands of internationally adopted children arriving in the U.S. each year, there is a growing demand for a specialized health-care support system which helps adoptive parents and children navigate through the process.

The newly established International Adoption and Travel Clinic at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was created to meet this need and provide parents with a medical-based support system as they embark

on their adoption journey.

"Children adopted internationally may have spent months to years in orphanages and other state-run institutions. Their medical histories may be incomplete with many needing specific infectious disease-related attention," said Dr. Yvonne Bryson, professor and chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel. "We also help families prepare for international travel."

When parents have identi-

fied a prospective child for adoption, doctors provide a pre-adoption screening by reviewing available medical records, photos and videos of the child to evaluate his or her health.

Prior to the parents or other family members going abroad to pick up their child, the program will prepare them for international travel, providing vaccinations and any medical and practical supplies they need to bring with them.

Once parents arrive in a foreign country to pick up their child, they are typically required to stay for weeks or months before the process is finalized. Family members may also experience common travel-related illnesses. Physicians from the UCLA clinic are available throughout this time to communicate by e-mail with the parents to answer questions and offer medical expertise.

When a child is brought to his or her new home in the America, the program offers a post-adoption evaluation. If necessary, they also provide referrals to a variety of pediatric specialists. The clinic's medical services can be used for families adopting children domestically.

In addition, the international travel clinic is available for any family going abroad. Visit: [www.uclahealth.org/adoptiontravel](http://www.uclahealth.org/adoptiontravel).