

# BREAKTHROUGHS

Partnership for Cures, 70 W. Madison, Ste.1500, Chicago, IL 60602

## Partnership For Cures- Matchmaking Medical Miracles

For the past two years Partnership for Cures has created partnerships between funders and medical researchers to drive better treatments and cures to patients in two years or less. We work with people like you who are committed to finding solutions for patients with life threatening diseases.

There are several ways you can help us help patients. First, you can donate funds to a specific medical research project so that we can quickly impact the lives of patients suffering from catastrophic disease. Secondly, can you connect us to disease-specific organizations like the LUNgevity Foundation and FD NOW that will partner with us to create and fund "Two Years to Cures" projects. Lastly, you can start or join a PFC chapter like our Rockford Illinois Chapter.

E-mail [Bruce@4Cures.org](mailto:Bruce@4Cures.org) or return the enclosed postcard to find out how you can join the PFC partnership to make an immediate impact on the lives of those suffering from catastrophic disease.

## Cures And Treatments Are Urgently Needed Now!

While medical research is a whopping \$60 billion dollar industry, fewer than 20 new drugs were approved by the FDA last year and not one created a cure for a life-threatening illness!

Partnership for Cures has demonstrated that private philanthropy can help fund better treatments and cures for patients in as little as two years. We have proven that immediate solutions for those suffering from catastrophic disease come faster from finding new uses for existing drugs and other therapies than from discovering new drugs. This is known as repurposing and it is as simple as recycling old bottles. Repurposing is cost effective and safe. In less than two years, Partnership for Cures researchers created a \$10 per day repurposed treatment for children suffering from ALPS (Autoimmune Lymphoproliferative Syndrome). When taken by these kids, Rapamycin, a drug first used for organ transplants in the 1970's, causes all illness related symptoms to disappear within four weeks. It has been reported that the symptoms have stayed away for as long as 36 months. To date, more than 100,000 patients have been successfully treated with affordable, effective and durable treatments that were created in two years or less because of the PFC partnerships.

Future projects – for which we now seek funding partners – include, but are not limited to, testing new treatments for autism, MS, Parkinson's, Crohn's Disease, lupus, lung cancer and "orphan" diseases.



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## The LUNgevity Foundation Continues to Team with Partnership for Cures

Partnership for Cures and the LUNgevity Foundation have worked together for several years to make an impact on lung cancer research. LUNgevity is currently funding a project at Boston's Mass General Hospital that will increase the number of people who receive benefit from a new lung cancer drug called Tarceva by combining it with an old malaria drug called chloroquine. The first patients in the study, for whom Tarceva stopped working, have had remarkable initial responses to this new combination.

Partnership for Cures has been working closely with LUNgevity to help them make an even greater impact with the millions of dollars they raise and deploy each year in support of lung cancer patients. We recently completed a review of the 35 projects LUNgevity had co-funded since 2002, as well as supporting them with their research project selection and funding in their partnership with the American Lung Association.



## The MAK Fund at Partnership for Cures

The MAK Fund at Partnership for Cures was established by the family and friends of Michael Arthur Klotz in memory of his enthusiasm for learning and his zest for living while he endured kidney disease. The MAK Fund will help dialysis units teach kids suffering from end-stage renal disease (ESRD) to be more productive during time spent outside the classroom in dialysis treatment (more than 10 hours per week!).

The MAK Fund's first project will be a feasibility study and design of a computer program with Internet access in a dialysis unit to increase access to education and learning for ESRD patients as they receive treatment.

Michael suffered from renal disease from the age of six, but

lived his life to the fullest. He married, graduated college, and received a graduate degree in Bio Informatics. Michael's life was a quest for knowledge and a gift of support. It is our hope that the MAK Fund helps kids with ESRD create their own journey of discovery and learning. If you are interested in supporting the MAK Fund at Partnership for Cures to help kids with ESRD, contact us at [MAKFund@4cures.org](mailto:MAKFund@4cures.org).



## The Brinson Foundation and Plunkett Foundation Join PFC's Rockford Illinois Chapter to Support Breakthrough Treatment For Blood Cancer Patients at the Mayo Clinic

PFC partners have gotten together to support patients with blood cancers. Autologous Stem Cell Transplants (ASCT) help some patients go into remission, but only 5-20% of these patients are still alive ten years later. We have set out to increase the percentage to 80% in the next two years!

In ASCT, doctors collect and store immune system stem cells from a patient's blood. The patient is given high doses of chemotherapy to destroy all of their cancer cells. The chemotherapy destroys all of the remaining immune cells, so the doctors transplant the stored immune stem cells back into the patient's body and hope that they re-grow an entirely new immune system.

Researchers at Mayo Clinic, including principal investigator Dr. Luis Porrata, discovered that when they "accidentally" collected and replanted "natural killer" immune cells in addition to the stem cells patients had a considerably better long term outcome after ASCT. Currently, there is a two-year human clinical

trial that purposefully adds these "natural killer" immune cells to blood cancer stem cell transplants. A positive result would bring hope to the more than 600,000 patients worldwide who receive ASCT as treatment for blood cancers. This study's risk is minimal. Only the settings of the collection machine are changed so there is no additional risk to the patients. The study will cost an estimated \$150,000 dollars per year, and is supported by the Brinson Foundation, Goldman Philanthropic Partnerships, the Plunkett Family Foundation, the Rockford Illinois Chapter of PFC and the donors of Mayo Clinic.



Dr. Luis Porrata, Mayo Clinic  
Partnership for Cures Researcher



## PFC Rockford Chapter's \$1M Campaign!

When Partnership for Cures Founder George Goldman spoke to friends and colleagues in Rockford Illinois about finding better treatments for patients with catastrophic diseases, prominent business and community leaders responded. The Rockford Illinois Chapter (RIC) of Partnership for Cures was born and quickly embraced PFC's mission by launching a \$1 million campaign to support research across a variety of diseases. Even before the campaign began, the RIC Board committed \$50,000 to help fund a blood cancer/stem cell treatment study at the Mayo Clinic.

At a May 2007 inaugural event hosted by Rockford businessman and philanthropist Bruce Hagshenas, RIC Chairman Jerry Paris noted, "PFC's mission is much more than a dream. It's a vision for the future of how we seek answers for better treatments and cures. People afflicted with disease do not have

time to wait for long-term 'maybe's' that current research models propose. It takes an average of fifteen years and more than a billion dollars for new drug development. We know that there are answers out there – there is tremendous knowledge and scientific talent available. We just need to harness this and re-define the methodology to link medical research to more immediate patient outcomes."



RIC Chair Jerry Paris (left) with Tom Muldowney and Michael Abate at the Kick-off Event.

The RIC Million Dollar Campaign for Cures is co-chaired by Terry and Al Provenzano and by

Sue and Joe Castrogiovanni. For more information contact Jerry Paris at (815) 222-6016.

## PIC Foundation At Partnership For Cures

The PIC Foundation at Partnership for Cures is dedicated to improving the quality of life for protein intolerant children and their families through medical research to find new treatment options, through education and advocacy.

Nearly five percent of all children are born with some form of protein intolerance or food allergy. Many of these children suffer debilitating consequences – or even death – because of the lack of information, early recognition or diagnosis, and treatment options. Parents of protein intolerant children navigate



very murky waters. The PIC Foundation at Partnership for Cures has initiated a campaign to create increased awareness of protein intolerance, as well as a communications network for parents and their practitioners. For more information, please go to [www.thepicfoundation.org](http://www.thepicfoundation.org).

## FD NOW Fund Holds Online Auction

You're cordially invited to the FD NOW Online Auction Event which begins on March 7th and will run for 10 days. We have over 100 different items...trendy, fun, functional....there's something for everyone! Go to [www.fdnw.org](http://www.fdnw.org) and click on the auction link.

Ann and Ken Slaw and other Familial Dysautonomia (FD) families and friends founded the FD NOW fund at Partnership for Cures in order to fund research so that better treatments and cures can reach patients with FD in 2 years or less. FD is caused by mutations in the gene that produces a critical molecule called the IKAP protein, whose presence is necessary to control the autonomic nervous system.

The automatic nervous system controls bodily functions that happen without us thinking about them like beating a heart, breathing, movement through the digestive system, and the production of tears. Significant progress has been made in the



Laboratory for Familial Dysautonomia research at Fordham University by Drs Berish Rubin and Sylvia Anderson. These researchers have discovered two natural, ingestible and readily available compounds that increase the amount of functional IKAP protein. They have also created a nutritional regimen that eliminates substances such as tyramine and MSG both of which are triggers for FD crisis.



## Partnership for Cures Names 2008 Culpeper Medical Scholars

Partnership for Cures was recently appointed by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to assume administration of The Charles E. Culpeper Scholarships in Medical Science Program. This prestigious and competitive program nurtures the career development of the best and brightest young physician scientists who are committed to a career that combines research, teaching, and patient care. At the conclusion of the scholarship period, each Scholar will become firmly established as an independent investigator at a top-tier university or institutional research organization, working to accelerate the search for cures for catastrophic diseases.

The Culpeper Scholarships in Medical Science program was established in 1988 under the will of the late Charles E. Culpeper, a philanthropist and businessman who made his mark as a pioneer in the bottling and marketing of Coca-Cola. An assembly of these Scholars would rival a meeting of Nobel Prize winners in medicine - and this meeting would likely include a number of current or future Nobel Prize winners. Culpeper Scholars now lead departments and research laboratories at the finest and most renowned medical research institutions and corporations in the United States.

Each institution may nominate only one candidate, based upon the quality of his or her research and the potential for an exceptional career in clinical, research, and/or academic medicine. The institutions believe so strongly in the quality of their candidates that they guarantee a faculty position, research facilities and matching funds to support the proposed research program.



**Dr. Ophir Klein,**  
University of California San Francisco, Culpeper Scholar 2008  
"Laying the foundation for organ regeneration: the continuously growing mouse incisor as a model system for the study of adult stem cells"



**Dr. Roger Greenberg,**  
University of Pennsylvania, Culpeper Scholar 2008  
"The Role of Ubiquitin Metabolism in BRCA1-Dependent DNA Double Strand Break Repair"



**Dr. Scott Evans, Univ. of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center,** Culpeper Scholar 2008  
"Mechanisms of inducible innate immunity that protect broadly against pneumonia"

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Visit us at:  
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