

Allergy & Immunology

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Dear Members of the CURED Board:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do on behalf of our research aimed at deciphering the cause, best treatment, and cure for EGID. Over the past year, we have made great progress in a number of areas as outlined below.

1. We have published the first controlled clinical trial for EE, demonstrating the ability of swallowed fluticasone to induce disease remission. As a result of this study, we learned that only half of the patients responded; therefore, we have embarked on the study described in #2.
2. We have developed a new protocol with the FDA, designed to test a higher dose of swallowed fluticasone (1760 mcg per day) for the treatment of EE. In this study, we are also investigating the placebo effect, trying to uncover the explanation for this important response.
3. We have published an article on the ability of Anti-IL-5 to improve EE. This has fueled a pharmaceutical firm to conduct a large-scale clinical trial, as well as another company to manufacture a new form of Anti-IL-5. We are working closely with these companies to optimize the chances for success.
4. We have elucidated the immunological and hematological mechanism by which Anti-IL-5 improves patients with various forms of hypereosinophilic syndrome and EGID. This has implications for drug design and dosing.
5. Using an experimental system in animals, we have uncovered the involvement of IL-13 in eliciting gastrointestinal allergy. This is important, as this leads us to consider anti-IL-13 therapy for the treatment of EGID.
6. Using gene chip analysis of tissue from EGID patients, we have uncovered a new pathway that leads to disease development. This pathway is now being explored for its significance in therapy.
7. DNA samples have been collected from an additional 200 EGID patients and family members. This is allowing us to hone in on the major genes responsible for disease. This will lead to better diagnostic tests and therapeutic targets.

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8. We have expanded our patient database by improving the software and dramatically increasing the number of samples collected (DNA, tissue, and blood). This provides a key resource for the genetic, immunological, and molecular analysis of EGID.

Since the beginning of 2006, we have published over 30 international research studies focused on eosinophils; this is a testimony to our efficiency and success. Many of these studies were directly supported by CURED. Indeed, we acknowledged CURED as a source of funds in many of these papers. We have a great opportunity to dramatically advance EGID research based on our discoveries (as outlined above). As such, the funds provided by CURED are truly timely and critical. Additionally, realizing the tremendous effort and personal stories that lie behind each CURED donation inspires our research on a daily basis.

With gratitude and sincerity,



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