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The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders, the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation, and RhizoKids International award a \$75,000 Research Grant in Effort to Accelerate Treatment Options for Rare Diseases

The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders Awards (GFPD), the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation (WMRF), and RhizoKids International award a \$75,000 research grant to Dr. Michael F. Wangler, Baylor College of Medicine. In an effort to accelerate treatment options for rare diseases, the GFPD is proud to partner with WMRF and RhizoKids International to create a metabolomics resource for peroxisomal disorders and related conditions such as D-bifunctional protein deficiency and Rhizomelic chondrodysplasia punctata (RCDP).

“Dr. Wangler’s proposal investigates a previously unexplored facet of peroxisomal disorders. As we work to accelerate treatments and someday find a cure for peroxisomal disorders, this groundbreaking research will provide greater understanding of the complex nature of peroxisomal disorders. We hope that this work will help to lay the foundation for a better quality of life for patients with PBD-ZSD,” said GFPD Executive Director Melissa Bryce Gamble.

The aim of this project is to create a metabolomics resource that includes a spectrum of peroxisomal disorders and a battery of genetic models with PBD that will impact the field by identifying biomarkers, therapeutic targets, and diagnostic patterns allowing translation from models. Additionally, the project will aim to provide insight into the link between sphingomyelin and peroxisomes that could provide a new avenue for understanding lipid defects in peroxisomal disorders.

About the Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders

Headquartered in Tulsa, OK, The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders (GFPD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity committed to funding research to develop a greater understanding of Peroxisome biogenesis disorders (PBD), including Zellweger spectrum disorders (ZSD) and related single-enzyme disorders. PBD-ZSD is an extremely rare genetic disorder that is generally terminal in childhood. Additionally, the GFPD organizes family support and scientific conferences, connects families through online support groups, and provides an equipment exchange program. GFPD also shares objective and credible information to families and caregivers of patients with peroxisomal disorders and is a voice in the public arena for patients affected by the disorders. For more information about the GFPD, please visit: thegfpd.org

About the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation

Josh and Caiti Mateffy family established the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation (WMRF) in 2015 to create a legacy of helping others for their daughter, Wynne, who was diagnosed with PBD in March 2015. Wynne lost her battle with PBD-ZSD in June 2016, but her parents still fight tirelessly to push forward treatment options for PBD-ZSD. For more information about the WMRF, please visit: wmrf.org

About RhizoKids International

Rhizokids International is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was formed to raise money for research for Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata (RCDP). RCDP is genetic disorder that is a fatal form of dwarfism, and it is rare, affecting fewer than 100 children worldwide. Currently, there is no treatment and no cure for RCDP. For more information about RhizoKids International, please visit: rhizokids.com