

## ***Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee***

Advances in the treatment of the histiocytoses has progressed rapidly in the recent past years. Mortality from the several major forms, LCH and HLH, has fallen, understanding of the various histiocytoses has increased, and treatment approaches have been significantly refined. To a great extent this is due to both advances in research and to the collaborative approaches to treatment that have been developed. An important contributor in supporting this progress is the Histiocytosis Association. Key elements that we can particularly identify are substantial support the Association and its donors have given to the clinical work of the members of the Histiocyte Society, and the prescient development of a strategy for research funding that has consisted of awarding “seed” grants, grants that facilitate the initiation of new research directions. By this seed grant mechanism, the Association has been supporting a spectrum of research related to the histiocytoses, ranging from basic scientific to translational to clinical studies. We have provided direct support for clinical trial patient enrollment, data collection and statistical analysis. These seed grants, and the scientific review behind awarding them, have resulted in milestone research developments in the field.

To assure that our contributions and those of our donors, both conceptual and financial, continue to have maximum impact, particularly in view of the rapidly advancing knowledge in this field, the Board of the Histiocytosis Association has established a Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee (MSAC). This new committee is intended to further advance our efforts to most rapidly and effectively obtain and translate new knowledge in these diseases to benefit the outcome of children and adults (and their families) with these difficult diseases. The MSAC will provide guidance to the Association at several levels--assuring that grant funding decisions are wise, particularly in the face of rapidly progressing knowledge in the field, and that the broad and strategic directions of the Association remain cutting edge.

The MSAC is composed of nationally and internationally prominent investigators, ranging in interest and expertise from basic scientific to translational to clinical studies. Primarily recruited from the external scientific and medical communities, we envision that this committee and its members will provide important input to the Board of the Association in strategic decision making. The initial composition of this committee is given at the end of this announcement. We have already held the MSAC's first, organizational meeting, in conjunction with the 2015 Histiocyte Society annual meeting, in Athens, Greece in September. Now we are looking forward to the MSAC adding important insights to future planning of the Histiocytosis Association and to providing guidance in maximizing the research contributions of the Association and our donors to the conquering of these diseases.

### Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the Histiocytosis Association

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Child Health Research Center  
Children's National Medical Center

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