Progeria Research Foundation®

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news

CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

We did it again!
We're a 4-Star Charity
3 Years In a Row!

2-Drug Clinical Trial in Full Swing!

Phase 1 going strong as children begin to enroll

With 9 children enrolled and more children anticipated to join through 2016, the trial team will soon know the optimal clinical trial dose of everolimus when given in combination with the drug lonafarnib. If the drug is tolerated, they and other children will move on to Phase 2, a two-year trial to determine if the two-drug combination is more effective than lonafarnib alone.

Read more about the PRF-funded Progeria clinical trials – our best hope for treatment and cure – on page 4.

9-year-old Zach enrolled in the 2-drug trial in June.

International Scientific Workshop 2016

PRF's 8th international conference an overwhelming success

Presenters from 14 countries showcased their progress in translating laboratory research into treatments, as researchers and clinicians work to find a cure for Progeria and unlock the mysteries of heart disease and aging.

More details on pages 6-7

National Institutes of Health Director and Progeria researcher Dr. Francis Collins, participating in a Q & A session.

PRF's Mission:

To discover treatments and the cure for Progeria and its aging-related disorders, including heart disease.

Ana, 6 years old

Progeria is a fatal, "rapid aging" disease that afflicts children, who die of heart disease at an average age of 14 years – the same heart disease that affects millions of normal aging adults.

Because of Progeria's connection to heart disease and aging, what we learn from Progeria research has the potential to benefit all of us.

Message from Audrey Gordon and Meryl Fink

Hello everyone,

In this year's newsletter, we are thrilled to present a special, 2-page spread of PRF's timeline - highlights that tell the remarkable story of all that we have been able to accomplish with your support. The pages that follow depict not only PRF's past history and successes, but also the activities that will lead us to new treatments and a cure, including:

- In April the first children travelled to Boston to enroll in our third clinical drug trial, one more step toward discovering treatments for Progeria.
- The 8th international workshop held in May illustrated the astounding depth and breadth of new research being done around the world.
- Our 8th Night of Wonder gala raised more funds for research than ever, and brought the level of excitement and commitment of our supporters to new heights.
- For the first time ever, annual funding for research grants exceeded $1,000,000.

We are also pleased to announce an exciting new set of staffing changes. As detailed on page 12, Meryl will soon become PRF's Executive Director and Audrey will take on a new role as PRF's Director of Development.

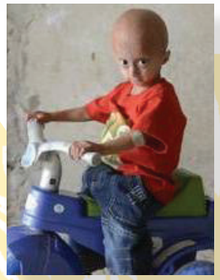
We are both eager to build on the amazing strides that PRF has made to date. From our very first board meeting in 1999 through today, the same vital ingredients continue to drive PRF's mission - unwavering hope, determination, passion and commitment to finding a cure for children with Progeria. We and PRF's Board of Directors are confident that these changes will ensure those ingredients endure, and that drive continues.

All of you have been an essential part of PRF's history and successes, and we look forward to continuing our journey to cure Progeria with you.

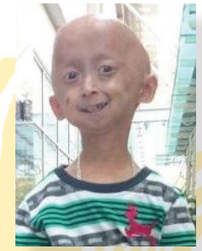
Together, we *WILL* find the cure!

Audrey Gordon, Esq. Meryl Fink, Esq.

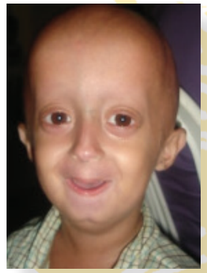
In Loving Memory...



Franco
4 years old, from Argentina



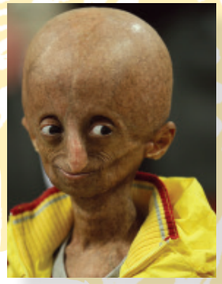
Kien
10 years old, from Vietnam



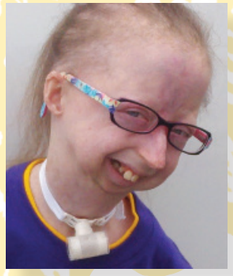
Nathan
11 years old, from Brazil

Gone from our sight, but never our memories ~ Gone from our touch, but never our hearts.

Ana Rochelle
19 years old, from the Philippines



Nihal
15 years old, from India



Hayden
15 years old, from the US

The Progeria 2-Drug, Phase 1 Clinical Treatment Trial Has Begun

Study team will determine the safest maximum dose of everolimus for children with Progeria.

Zoey, 6 years old, gets her first dose of everolimus from her mother, while Carly, 5 years old, watches and waits for her turn.

Our third clinical trial is now well underway at Boston Children's Hospital! The excitement among the families, trial team and PRF staff is palpable as a new drug is introduced that may treat children with Progeria. The two-drug combination of lonafarnib plus everolimus (a form of the drug rapamycin) may prove to be a "one-two punch" to Progeria and thus a better treatment than lonafarnib on its own. Everolimus targets a different pathway in attacking the toxic protein progerin. While lonafarnib blocks progerin from developing, everolimus causes cells to more rapidly clear out progerin.

The first patients enrolled on April 25, 2016, and a total of 9 children have enrolled to date. Children from the US, Italy, South Africa, Sweden and Denmark are anticipated to join through the remainder of 2016.

Clinical Trials Protocol: Phase 1 vs. Phase 2

The goal of a Phase 1 portion is to determine the safest maximum dose of a drug. Once that occurs, the next study Phase 2 can begin, which determines if there are positive effects from the drug.

Lonafarnib Monotherapy Trial Expansion Continues

The US FDA requires patients to already be taking lonafarnib to be eligible for the 2-drug trial. Thus the lonafarnib-only expansion has continued not only for newly identified children, but also for those that began taking lonafarnib in 2009-2010 because it is improving their cardiovasculature and lifespan.*

Over the past year, 10 more children have enrolled, bringing the total to 78 from 33 countries, speaking 24 languages – REMARKABLE!

*In 2012, the historic finding was made that lonafarnib is the first known treatment for children with Progeria, significantly improving weight gain, bone structure and, most importantly, vascular stiffness. Further studies revealed lonafarnib increases estimated lifespan. PRF trials have made sure that children with Progeria have access to this treatment, while we continue the search for more effective treatments (like perhaps everolimus!) and, ultimately, the cure.

Through the **2016 ONEpossible campaign**, you helped raise $200,000 to fund the start of the 2-drug trial. Phase 1 will cost between $500,000 - $1 million, depending on when the right dosage is determined. THANK YOU for being ONE to make a cure for Progeria POSSIBLE!

Brothers Bennett, 7 years old, and Nathan, 11 years old, are all smiles as they receive their award ribbons during their trial visit.

Morena, 8 years old from Argentina, began taking lonafarnib in December 2015. She is now eligible to participate in the 2-drug trial.

Results of Triple Drug Trial for Progeria Published in high-impact journal *Circulation**

This clinical trial added two drugs, pravastatin and zoledronic acid, to the already successful drug lonafarnib. While lonafarnib continued to provide benefit, adding the two drugs did not improve health over and above the lonafarnib single therapy. PRF continues its aggressive strategy to identify promising drug candidates that may offer children with Progeria longer, healthier lives - like our new two-drug trial.

In an accompanying editorial, National Institutes of Health Director and study author Francis Collins, MD PhD, wrote, "... additional therapeutic options are emerging, and there is more momentum than ever in the basic and clinical research communities."

* Gordon, et. al., Clinical Trial of Protein Farnesylation Inhibitors Lonafarnib, Pravastatin and Zoledronic Acid in Children with Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome, *Circulation*, 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.116.022188

Meghan, 15 years old, Brennen, 7 years old, and Lindsay, 12 years old, participated in the triple trial. All three children have been taking lonafarnib for several years, and are now adding everolimus in the hopes that the 2 drugs will be more effective together.

PRF Awards Four More Research Grants

Since 1999, PRF has granted over $7 million to fund 64 Progeria-related projects performed in 18 states and 13 countries. The projects have led to crucial discoveries about Progeria, heart disease, and aging.

SPECIALTY AWARD:

Jed William Fahey, Sc.D.
Assistant Professor and Director, Cullman Chemoprotection Center, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Human Nutrition, Baltimore, MD.

"The capacity of plant-derived isothiocyanates to surpass the efficacy of sulforaphane, with reduced toxicity to Progeria cell lines."

Recent studies have shown the chemical sulforaphane, which is found in broccoli, improves the health of cultured Progeria cells. However, the doses likely needed to treat people are much higher, and may cause unacceptable toxicities. Dr. Fahey will test over 100 compounds closely related to sulforaphane, to examine whether any are better at improving Progeria without causing cellular toxicity, at doses that may be reasonable for humans.

INNOVATOR AWARDS

Silvia Ortega-Gutiérrez, PhD
Associate Professor, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain; Ramón y Cajal Scholar, Fulbright Scholar, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA.

"New isoprenylcysteine carboxylmethyltransferase (ICMT) inhibitors for the treatment of progeria."

A chemical called an ICMT inhibitor has been shown to improve Progeria in the laboratory, by blocking the pathway used by cells to produce progerin. Dr. Ortega and her team aim to develop new ICMT inhibitors for the treatment of Progeria by performing what drug companies call "medicinal chemistry," where a chemical is developed for use as a medicine in humans.

Roland Foisner, PhD
Professor of Biochemistry, Medical University Vienna and Deputy Director, Max F. Perutz Laboratories, Vienna, Austria. Editor-in-Chief, Journal Nucleus.

"Contribution of endothelial cell dysfunction to cardiovascular disease in progeria and implications for diagnostic and therapeutic targets."

Artery walls contain several layers containing different types of cells that can play different roles in cardiovascular disease development. Dr. Foisner has created a mouse model expressing progerin in the vascular endothelium, the innermost cell layer of blood vessels. He will investigate how progerin impairs endothelial cell function and how this affects heart function.

Juan Carlos Belmonte Izpisua, PhD
Professor, Gene Expression Laboratories at The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, CA.

"The use of novel technologies to identify and validate potential therapeutic compounds for the treatment of HGPS."

Dr. Belmonte and his team will use a well-established technique pioneered in their lab to model the vascular smooth muscle characteristics associated with the most acute symptoms of heart disease in children with Progeria. Using these cells, they will perform a high-throughput screening to discover compounds that prevent progerin production.

2016 Progeria Research Foundation International Scientific Workshop

For more details please visit progeriaresearch.org/workshop2016

173 world-renowned researchers and clinicians in the field of Progeria converged from 14 countries to meet in Cambridge, MA in May for PRF's 8th International Scientific Workshop entitled, **Across the Table, Around the Globe**. Twenty-five speakers and 46 poster presentations showcased important scientific findings, presented the progress in translating bench research to potential therapeutic treatments, and inspired future collaborations between the research and medical communities. The breadth and scope of work is expanding every year, as experts work tirelessly to find a cure for progeria and unlock the mysteries of heart disease and aging.

Scientists presented new data in support of over 20 possible therapeutic avenues for HGPS, a significant expansion over the prior meeting in 2013. There were wide-ranging discovery strategies that included RNA therapeutics, lamin A post-translational processing pathways, small molecules discovered as a result of high throughput screening, agents adapted from the general aging field such as a senescence regulator, telomere-based therapies; regulators of autophagy and antioxidants; treatments rooted in LMNA structure and function, and a strategy for improving genomic stability. *If all of these new discoveries lead to just one effective treatment for children with Progeria, then these global research efforts will be a tremendous success.*

(l-r): Zoey, Meghan and Carly

The Workshop kicked off with a Family Panel, moderated by **Leslie Gordon, MD, PhD** (PRF). Researchers had the unique opportunity to meet some of the people their work could help: **Meghan Waldron**, her brother **Ian** and her parents **Tina** and **Bill**; **Carly Kudzia**, along with her parents **Heather** and **Ryan**; and **Zoey Penny** with her mother, **Laura**. Meghan spoke about her experience living with Progeria and read a poem recently published in the magazine Stone Soup. Parents answered questions from the audience and thanked the research and medical communities for their work towards finding a cure. To top it off, **Carly** and **Zoey** led the entire group in a lively game of Simon Says (yes, the scientists jumped up and down while rubbing their heads!)

The Meeting Agenda at a Glance

Evening 1: **Children & Parents Living with Progeria: Toddlers & Teens**
Plenary Talk on landmark pre-clinical research findings: **Vicente Andrés García, PhD**, Centro Nacional de Investigiones Cardiovasculares, Spain

Day 2: **Clinical Outcomes and Biomarker Discovery in HGPS**
Moderator: **Monica Kleinman, MD**; Boston Children's Hospital, MA

Pharmacological Intervention in HGPS and Aging Models
Moderator: **Brian Kennedy, PhD**; Buck Institute, CA

Evenings 1 and 2 capped off with **Poster Presentations** of topics ranging from new potential therapeutic targets for treatment, to potential biomarkers and technology for non-invasive measures used to determine efficacy of treatment, to new discoveries in atypical progeria patients, to recent findings from clinical trials.

Day 3: **Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms in HGPS and Aging**
Moderator: **Maria Eriksson, PhD**; Karolinska Institute, Sweden

Emerging Therapeutics
Moderator: **Tom Misteli, PhD**, National Cancer Institute, MD

***Summation:* The Next Phase - Strategies for the Future; Science and Medicine Coming Together.**

In a riveting Summation Session, **Judy Campisi, PhD** (Buck Institute), **Mark Kieran, MD, PhD** (Boston Children's Hospital) and NIH Director **Francis Collins, MD, PhD** spearheaded a lively discussion about how to work as a community to guide the future for progeria research. As a fitting closure to the conference, Dr. Collins performed the song *Dare to Dream*, which he previously wrote and performed during his TEDMED talk that featured Sam Berns.

Overwhelmingly Positive Feedback!

With a 98% approval rating overall, the most common remarks from attendees reflected excitement about data sharing and collaboration leading to new ideas for future work. Here are a few attendees' comments:

"The meeting was so much better than I had hoped for – I learned a tremendous amount, and felt very welcomed into your research community."

"What a spectacular meeting!"

"I wanted to thank you for giving us the opportunity of being part of such a wonderful experience. Everybody was very committed to their work and to the families of these children, and that is admirable."

"My head is still buzzing with a new appreciation for all the amazing science your foundation is sponsoring."

Many thanks to our Workshop Organizers...

Leslie B. Gordon, MD, PhD, Medical Director, PRF

Audrey Gordon, Esq, President & Executive Director, PRF

Frank G. Rothman, PhD, Professor & Provost Emeritus, Brown University

Tom Mistelli, PhD, Senior Deputy Director for Research, Center for Cancer Research, NCRI, NIH

Vicente Andrés García, PhD, Professor, Laboratory of Molecular and Genetic Cardiovascular Pathophysiology, CNIC

...and our Workshop Supporters

NIH National Institute on Aging

NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

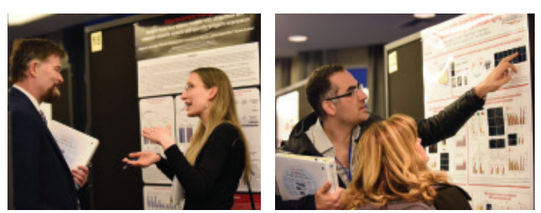
DSF Charitable Foundation

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.

afar american federation for aging research

HOLOGIC® The Science of Sure

carly cares



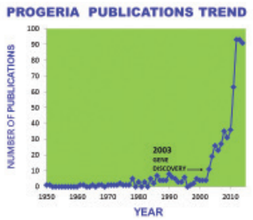
Workshop attendees discussing the latest research and discoveries at the poster presentations

TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH AUGUST 2016: OUR HISTORY, OUR FUTURE…

1999

March 1999
The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF) is incorporated as a Massachusetts non-profit organization. On June 9, 1999, the Board of Directors holds its first meeting.

August 1999
PRF awards its 1st research grant. To date, PRF has awarded 62 grants totaling over $7 million. The projects have moved the field towards treatment and cure, and have helped Progeria scientific publications increase by 2,200% since PRF was founded.



November 1999
PRF launches its web site, a comprehensive resource of information on Progeria for researchers, families of children with Progeria and their physicians, and the general public. Together with social media sites (over one million Facebook followers!), millions around the world follow PRF's progress regularly.
www.progeriaresearch.org

2000

January 2000
PRF launches its International Registry, maintaining centralized information on children and families living with Progeria. This program assures rapid distribution of new information that may benefit the children.

October 17, 2000
PRF is instrumental in securing language in the Children's Health Act 2000 mandating the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to devise a plan to support children with Progeria. As a direct result, NIH has been supporting Progeria research efforts spearheaded by PRF; every PRF scientific workshop, a first-ever natural history study of children with Progeria, and the Progeria Triple Drug Trial.

2001

November 2001
PRF holds a historic, first-ever workshop in Bethesda, Maryland. PRF has organized 11 successful scientific conferences that have brought together scientists and clinicians from all over the world to share their expertise and cutting edge scientific data, and foster collaboration in the fight against Progeria.

2002

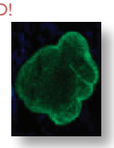
January 2002
The PRF Genetics Consortium is formed. The goal of this group is to find the gene for Progeria, which was accomplished ten months later.

March 2002
PRF launches the Cell & Tissue Bank at Rhode Island Hospital and Rutgers University Cell & DNA Repository, so researchers have the biological tools needed to advance Progeria research. The Bank now holds an impressive 211 lines, including cutting-edge Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (IPSC's) at the Ottowa Hospital Research Institute.

PRF launched the Progeria Medical & Research Database at Brown University to help learn more about the disease and provide treatment recommendations. Four years later, the Database information helped define the primary clinical parameter for Progeria clinical drug trials.

2003

May 2003
PROGERIA GENE DISCOVERED!
Using cells from the PRF Cell & Tissue Bank, PRF Genetics Consortium members Drs. Maria Eriksson and Francis Collins lead the Progeria gene discovery, published in the journal *Nature*.



June 2003
In the wake of the gene discovery, the PRF Diagnostics program is launched. With a definitive genetic test to diagnose children, earlier diagnosis, fewer misdiagnoses and early medical intervention ensure a better quality of life for the children.

2004

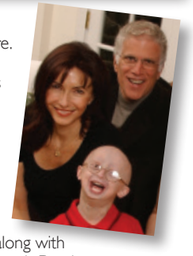
August 2004
PRF awards its 10th research grant, funding the creation of a Progeria mouse. Animal models provide essential preclinical testing for new drugs.

2005

November 2005
A record 96 scientists from 9 countries meet for PRF's fourth scientific workshop in Boston, MA. By 2013, the number of participants and countries nearly doubled. With leading scientists in the fields of heart disease, aging, genetics, and lamins, the depth and breadth of research into Progeria grows stronger with every meeting.

2006

June 2006
PRF launches a public service announcement (PSA) campaign featuring the recognizable voices of long-time PRF supporters Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen. The PSA received endorsement by the Ad Council and aired in Times Square. PRF has since created many PSAs with other celebrities, including Boston Bruins hockey players and Dave Matthews.



February/July 2006
PRF-funded studies find that farnesyltransferase inhibitors (FTIs) are a potential drug treatment for Progeria, as they prevent some signs of disease in Progeria mice. These and other studies, along with data analyzed from PRF's Medical & Research Database, pave the way for a clinical drug trial using the FTI lonafarnib.

2007

April 2007
Boston Children's Hospital approves the first-ever Progeria Clinical Drug Trial, funded and co-coordinated by PRF. For the first time, we have a possible treatment for children with Progeria. 28 children with Progeria from 16 countries come to Boston to enroll in the 2-year clinical trial. Enrollment took less than 6 months, thanks to PRF's International Registry and the remarkable teamwork with families, their doctors, and trial partners.

FIND THE OTHER 150
Join PRF's global effort to find all children with Progeria >

2008

August 2008
PRF's 7th chapter opens in Kentucky. Chapters, as well as thousands of other volunteers worldwide, help raise awareness and conduct local fundraising events so that PRF's goal of developing treatments and the cure will be achieved more rapidly to win this race against time.

October 2008
An NIH study finds that FTI's prevent the most devastating effect of Progeria in mice: cardiovascular disease. This stunning display of progress with the FTI drug provides further confirmation of how Progeria research may help millions with heart disease.

2009

April 2009
In a spectacular show of support for children with Progeria, PRF's first annual campaign, called the ONEpossible campaign reaches its $100,000 goal. To date, ONEpossible supporters have raised $1.2 million. Each ONE will make a cure POSSIBLE!

August 2009
Clinical Trial #2: Triple Drug Therapy begins. PRF and Boston Children's Hospital begin a three-drug combination trial. Researchers have identified two additional drugs that, when used in combination with the FTI drug being tested, may provide an even more effective treatment for children with Progeria than FTIs alone. This much larger trial includes 45 children from 24 different countries.

October 2009
PRF partners with Spectrum and GLOBALHealthPR to launch "Find the Other 150," a global campaign to find all children with Progeria so they can get the support they need. To date, along with other public awareness efforts, the campaign has helped PRF achieve a 150% increase in the number of known children: 98 children in 7 years.
www.findtheother150.org

2010

Public awareness reaches new heights with Progeria and PRF's work featured in a variety of top-tier TV, on-line and print media, including The Dr. Oz Show, Barbara Walters' 20/20, CNN, and The Wall Street Journal..

April 2010
PRF publishes the first ever *Progeria Handbook: A Guide for Families & Health Care Providers of Children with Progeria*, providing vital information for families of children with Progeria and their doctors: basic health facts, daily care advice and extensive treatment guidelines to improve the children's quality of life. The book is now available in 5 languages.

September 2010
A landmark study, led by PRF's medical director in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, demonstrates that the Progeria-causing protein progerin exists and increases in everyone as we age. The study suggests a new risk factor for heart disease and confirms that by examining one of the rarest diseases, we gain crucial insight into the heart disease that affects millions, and the aging affecting us all.

2011

September 2011
PRF launches Established Investigator, Innovator, and Specialty Awards for basic research. This new grant program structure increases funding towards finding new treatments and cure for Progeria and aging-related diseases, including heart disease.

2012

September 24, 2012
FIRST-EVER TREATMENT FOR PROGERIA DISCOVERED!
PRF makes history with the discovery that lonafarnib is the first-ever treatment for Progeria. Every child in the clinical trial showed improvement in one or more areas, including the vital cardiovascular system. With a definitive finding that drugs can alter the Progeria disease process, the quest for a cure is stronger than ever.

2013

January 2013
HBO Film's ***Life According to Sam (LATS)*** debuts at the Sundance Film Festival. Featuring Sam Berns and his parents (PRF co-founders) Drs. Leslie Gordon and Scott Berns, this riveting documentary about love, life and hope for children with Progeria received Emmy, Peabody and Christopher Awards, and ten festival awards.

October 2013
Along with LATS, Sam's October 2013 Katie Couric Show appearance and wildly popular TEDx talk, "My Philosophy for a Happy Life," have vastly raised awareness of Progeria and the importance of PRF's mission in a unique way. This resulted in an unprecedented surge in supporters, social media presence and general interest in these remarkable children.

2014

May 2014
In a stunning development, a study shows that the drugs tested in the PRF-funded clinical trials increase estimated lifespan of children with Progeria. Lonafarnib appears to be giving them improved cardiovasculature and longer lives. Remarkable!

July 2014
While PRF continues to search for more effective drug candidates, the PRF-funded expansion of the clinical trial gives every child with Progeria access to lonafarnib, the drug that could give them longer and healthier lives. 78 children have enrolled to date, including 31 new children, from 31 countries speaking 21 languages.

2015

PRF continues its phenomenal pace of progress, working on a multitude of research-related projects including the lonafarnib expansion trial, planning for a new trial and a new international scientific workshop, and a record-high $1 million investment in research grants.

The drug trial expansion allowed Prachi, age 4 from India, to enroll in December 2015.

July 2015
PRF and Merck make the FTI lonafarnib available to the research community through the PRF Cell & Tissue Bank. This supply will foster preclinical studies to further investigate the effects of lonafarnib on Progeria. As new compounds are identified with the potential to improve Progeria, these compounds can be tested in combination with lonafarnib in cells and in animal models.

2016

April 2016
Children begin to enroll in a new 2-drug trial that includes the treatment lonafarnib plus everolimus, a form of rapamycin, with the hope that the two drugs together will be even more effective than lonafarnib alone. Nine have enrolled through August 2016, and more are scheduled to arrive at Boston Children's Hospital to participate.
NEW DRUG, AND NEW HOPE FOR CHILDREN WITH PROGERIA.

Zoey (left) and Carly enroll in the PRF-funded, 2-drug trial at Boston Children's Hospital.

We've come so far in such a short time, and with your continued support, Together, we *WILL* find the cure!

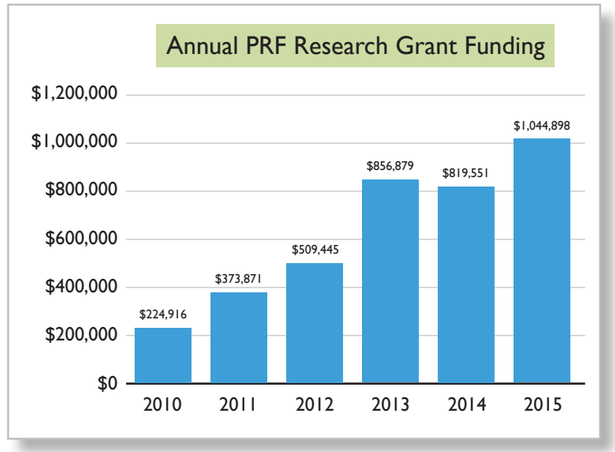
PRF 2015 Annual Report

Phenomenal growth and progress toward a cure continue!

PRF's programs are the cornerstone of our successes that will culminate in new treatments and a cure for children with Progeria, as well as increase our understanding of heart disease and aging. 2015 saw expansion of all programs, with increased numbers of children identified, more researchers involved, and greater awareness worldwide. This includes a 28% increase in research grant funding – a testament to PRF's global awareness efforts and the ever-growing interest in Progeria research.

For more details on PRF's programs and services, check out PRF By The Numbers at *progeriaresearch.org/prf-by-the-numbers*.

In the past 5 years, there has been an exponential increase in our research grant funding: 365%!



10 Core PRF Activities That Support Our Mission

2015 ACTIVITY	PRF PROGRAM	CUMULATIVE ACTIVITY Through 12/31/15
24 children from 14 countries	International Patient Registry	232 children from 54 countries and all continents
8 children diagnosed from Argentina, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Phillipines & US	Diagnostic Testing Program	123 children diagnosed
132 cell lines sent to 21 teams in 8 countries	Cell & Tissue Bank	580 cell lines sent to 98 teams in 18 countries
15 children enrolled; 27 treatment guidelines sent to 11 countries	Medical & Research Database	147 enrolled; 493 treatment guidelines sent to 42 countries
Lonafarnib trial expansion continues - 15 children came to Boston for trial visits; new 2-drug trial approved	Clinical Trial Funding & Co-coordination	3 clinical trials funded since 2007
7 grants awarded	Basic Research Grant Funding	62 grants to 41 labs in 13 countries; funding total >$6.7 million
Dec. 2015 MRC Summit & 2016 workshop planning	International Scientific Meetings	10 meetings: 7 general workshops and 3 subspecialties
45 events & over 220 new volunteers	Volunteer Program	Nearly 4,470 volunteers worldwide have helped raise awareness and funds
3 languages added: Serbian, Tamil & Vietnamese	Translations Program	31 languages
18 new children identified and over 300 million people reached through media	Public Awareness & Find The Other 150 Campaign	134 living children from 46 countries; over 2 billion* people exposed to Progeria and PRF's work

* Figure based on traditional media impression and social media reach

2015 Highlights:

Annual funding for research grants reached a milestone, exceeding **$1,000,000** for the first time. PRF awarded 7 new research grants in 2015, contributing to a total of **18 active projects** and a funding rate of 35%. From inception through 2015, 174 grant applications were received and 62 were approved for funding. Researchers from 44 institutions in 13 countries are leading the charge for Progeria's future scientific discovery, changing the landscape of Progeria research and giving the world ever-increasing hope for treatments and a cure.

Approval of our new two-drug clinical trial: PRF and the PRF-funded Boston Children's Hospital clinical team obtained all necessary approvals for our third clinical trial. This trial will test whether lonafarnib in combination with a drug called everolimus can provide better treatment for Progeria than lonafarnib alone. *Read more about this trial on page 4.*

Lonafarnib-only trial: Children continued to enroll in the **extension and expansion of the lonafarnib-only trial**. In 2015, 15 children came to Boston Children's Hospital from 13 countries speaking 12 languages – amazing! With the historic discovery that lonafarnib improves some disease features, including the cardiovascular system and longer estimated lifespan, PRF is expanding access to the only current treatment for Progeria. Concurrently, we are initiating our new two-drug trial with everolimus and continuing the search for even more effective treatments and ultimately the cure.

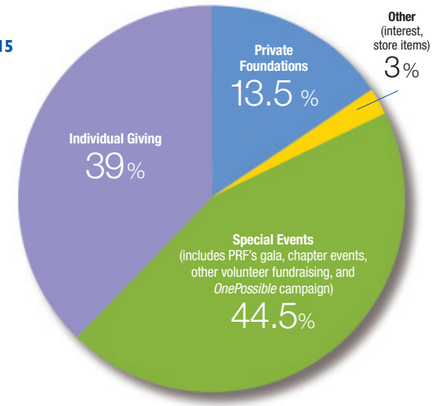
PRF's Medical Research Committee Holds 2-Day Summit in Boston: This brilliant group met for grant reviews, discussion of the nature and design of future workshops, and expert guest presentations by Dr. Gary Nabel, Chief Scientific Officer at Sanofi, and Dr. Mark Kieran, Director of Pediatric Medical Neuro-Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital, who addressed strategies for genetic therapy, high-throughput progeria mouse testing facilities, CRISPR technology, and future clinical drug trials. The meeting served to assure that PRF is on the cutting edge of science, with dynamic programs that propel us towards treatments and cure.

(l-r): Vicente Andres Garcia, PhD; Maria Eriksson, PhD; PRF Exec. Dir. Audrey Gordon, Esq; Ted Brown, MD, PhD; PRF Board Chair Scott Berns, MD. MPH, FAAP; Leslie Gordon, MD. PhD; Tom Glover, PhD; Chris Harling-Berg, PhD; MRC Chair Bryan Toole, PhD; Judy Campisi, PhD; PRF Board member Kim Paratore; Tom Misteli, PhD; and PRF Dir. of Operations Meryl Fink, Esq. Missing: Monica Kleinman, MD and Marsha Moses, PhD.

Prachi, from India, celebrated her 4th birthday in October, while in Boston for her first trial visit, where she began taking lonafarnib.

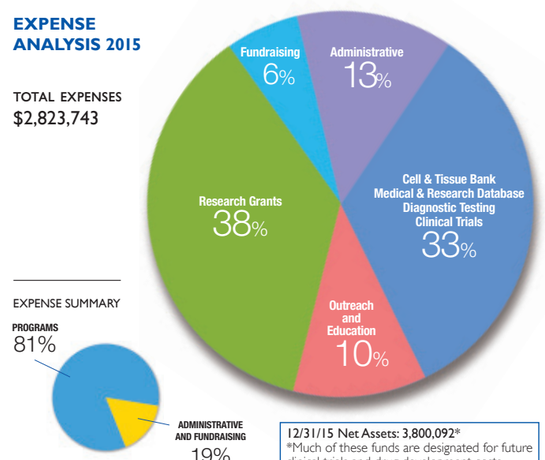
INCOME ANALYSIS 2015

TOTAL REVENUE
$2,017,991



EXPENSE ANALYSIS 2015

TOTAL EXPENSES
$2,823,743



12/31/15 Net Assets: 3,800,092*
*Much of these funds are designated for future clinical trials and drug development costs

You make all of this progress possible – Thank You!
With your steadfast support, we will work to ensure that 2016 and beyond brings us ever-closer to curing children with Progeria. **Together, we *WILL* find the cure!**

PRF *ON THE MOVE!*

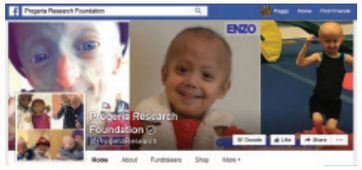
PRF Welcomes New Executive Director; Founding ED Takes on New Role at PRF

A new chapter in PRF leadership will begin this month, as **Meryl N. Fink, Esq.** becomes the **Executive Director.** Meryl brings to PRF 10+ years of experience in senior management of global law firms. For the past year, Meryl has served as PRF's Director of Operations, providing financial oversight while also managing the office and human resources. She will expand on these tasks in her new role, working with the Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, officers, staff, professional support, donors, volunteers and the families we serve to ensure mission-driven success for PRF through program administration and development, internal management, and financial strength and growth. "Meryl quickly became an integral part of PRF's operations", said PRF Board Chair Dr. Scott Berns, "and the Board is confident she will be a great asset to the organization and the children in this new role."

Incoming Executive Director Meryl Fink (left) and former ED/new Director of Development Audrey Gordon.

Audrey Gordon has served as PRF's founding Executive Director for nearly 18 years. She will now transition to **Director of Development**, a position that allows her to continue to significantly contribute to PRF's mission. "It has been my honor and privilege to have helped lead PRF since its creation", Audrey said. "I'm excited that 100% of my time will be dedicated to fundraising, and I look forward to supporting Meryl in her new role, and working with our current supporters and engaging new partners in furtherance of our mission to cure Progeria."

PRF's Social Media Platforms Continue to Drive Awareness and Support



Our ever-growing social media activity keeps millions informed and engaged in PRF's mission and accomplishments. Over one million Facebook followers from 45 countries share our news items, events, photos and stories posted at ***facebook.com/ProgeriaResearch***, and our **YouTube** page *(Progeria123)* features heartwarming videos of the children. Our **Twitter** *(@Progeria)* and **Instagram** *(ProgeriaResearch)* platforms are busier than ever, with comments of encouragement and heartfelt support for the children and our quest to find the cure for them. Let's keep this tremendous momentum going – **Join us today!**

PRF Medical Director Presents at Esteemed Nobel Mini-Symposium

The Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden held a Nobel Mini-Symposium titled, "Premature aging: From basic research to clinical treatment in a decade" in May. The world's leaders in Progeria research, including 4 PRF research grantees and 4 members of PRF's Medical Research Committee presented their Progeria work.

(l-r): Norman E. Sharpless, MD, The Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center; Robert Goldman, PhD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; Einar Hallberg, PhD, Stockholm University; Tom Misteli, PhD, National Cancer Institute; NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD; Maria Eriksson, PhD, Karolinksa Institute; Martin Bergo, PhD, University of Gothenburg; PRF Medical Director Leslie Gordon, MD, PhD; Judith Campisi, PhD, Buck Institute for Research on Aging; Carlos Lopez-Otin, PhD, University of Oviedo.

Sam Berns' Talk Featured in TEDx Billion Views Tribute

Out of over 40,000 TEDx talks, Sam's *"My Philosophy for a Happy Life"* is the **2nd most popular of all time**, with over 17 million views! TEDx talks have been given in every corner of the globe, and in February, a new milestone was reached: **one billion views of TEDx Talks** – AMAZING. How fitting that Sam's was featured in TED's worldwide announcement in which they encourage everyone to "explore 15 amazing talks…which have sparked both global and local conversations and connections." Sam's dad Scott Berns gave a moving tribute to his son and this milestone at TEDx Mid-Atlantic 2015. See *progeriaresearch.org/tedx*. PRF joined in the celebration by promoting *#LiveLikeSam* and *#CureProgeria* to spark conversations about Progeria and PRF.

18 years ago, Sam was the inspiration for the founding of PRF. Today, although he is no longer with us, Sam's lessons on how to live a happy life continue to inspire millions around the world.

Miracle Makers 2016

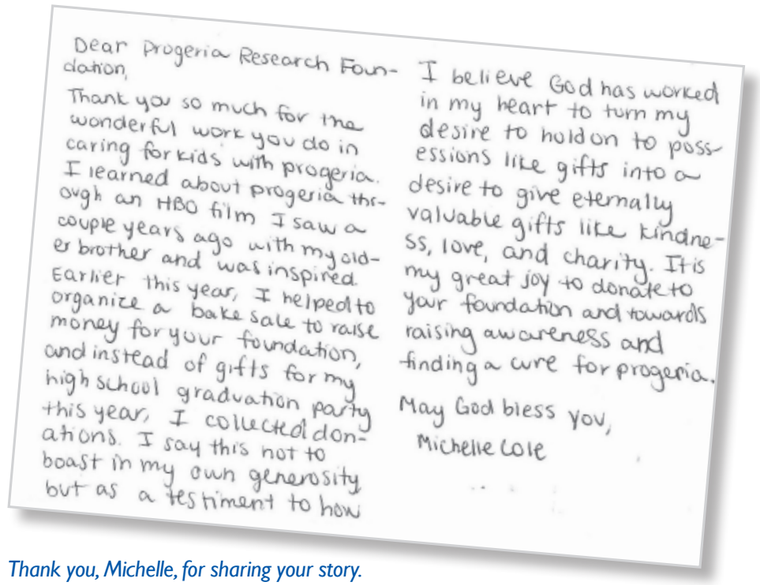
We continue to be inspired by those who learn about PRF's mission to cure children with Progeria and take action to help in a variety of ways. We wish we could feature all of them – go to *progeriaresearch.org/miracle_makers* to read more stories and learn how you can join this phenomenal group of supporters!

Fallon, Abigail and Girls on the Run of Erdenheim, PA, held a very successful Bake Sale - a tasty way to raise over $450 for PRF. What an amazing group of generous and enthusiastic girls!

All in the Family… Julia Fleming has been a Miracle Maker for years, and now her mom Tricia has joined in. Her PA yoga studio, Twisters Wellness Centers, holds "donation only" classes, with all proceeds coming to PRF – such a creative way to be a Miracle Maker!

Tricia, 3rd from the left, with her Yoga class participants.

There are many ways to help children with Progeria – go to *progeriaresearch.org/get_involved* to see them all!



Dear Progeria Research Foundation,

Thank you so much for the wonderful work you do in caring for kids with progeria. I learned about progeria through an HBO film I saw a couple years ago with my older brother and was inspired. Earlier this year, I helped to organize a bake sale to raise money for your foundation, and instead of gifts for my high school graduation party this year, I collected donations. I say this not to boast in my own generosity but as a testiment to how I believe God has worked in my heart to turn my desire to hold on to possessions like gifts into a desire to give eternally valuable gifts like kindness, love, and charity. It is my great joy to donate to your foundation and towards raising awareness and finding a cure for progeria.

May God bless you,
Michelle Cole

Thank you, Michelle, for sharing your story.
Your kind words and actions inspire all of us at PRF!

…More ways to help make the Miracle of a Cure happen

Join the *Leadership by Legacy Society* with a planned gift to PRF

Reduce estate taxes and leave a lasting legacy that meets your philanthropic and financial goals:

- Make a bequest in your will of cash, securities, or real estate to PRF.
- Name PRF as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement plan.
- Have an immediate impact today by donating shares of stock (this avoids tax on the gain.)

"What kind of legacy do we want to leave? One that guarantees that all children with Progeria have every resource necessary. And if Progeria research improves the lives of millions with heart disease, what a gift to us all".
- Leadership by Legacy members John and Marlene Marozzi

To learn more or for suggested will language, please contact ***plannedgiving@progeriaresearch.org*** or visit ***progeriaresearch.org/planned_giving***

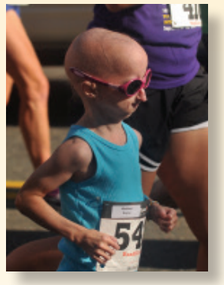
Join PRF's monthly giving program and be part of our *Champions for the Cure*

For as little as $10 a month, you can help provide a steady flow of support that we can rely on for our work to bring treatments and the cure to children with Progeria. It's easy and fast – just click on the "Donate Now" button on our website home page and choose "Recurring Donation".

Chapter, Family & Other Annual Events

We are so grateful to all who organize, attend and support these fun community events that help raise awareness and funds needed to support our mission. THANK YOU ALL!

The sun shined brightly last September at our **14th Annual International Race for Research**. Signs with inspiring messages from Sam Berns' TEDx talk lined the race route in Peabody, MA, adding a special feel to the day. Congratulations to Meghan Waldron, who finished 1st in her age group!



Meghan had a great run.

Scott and Sharon Markman hold one of their favorite Sam quotes.

Nathan, Bennett and kids of all ages join in the games.

Make a Splash 2015: fun for the whole family!

Swimming, dancing, silent auction, balloon artist and ring toss made the 5th annual Make A Splash party at PA's Flourtown Country Club loads of fun for everyone!

11th Annual Miles for Miracles – Michigan's Event of the Year!

Every May, hundreds of fans of Lindsay Ratcliffe come together to support the Michigan Chapter's signature event. Lindsay designed another awesome t-shirt, the weather was perfect, and the food, auction and games tents were full of happy supporters!

A sea of blue covers Fountain Park as the crowd starts the walk.

Team Enzo Sausage Sales a Sizzling Success!

We love inaugural events – they not only add new community energy and supporters, but also turn into annual ones! "Our first Australian Sausage Sizzle was an absolute success," says Catherina, Enzo's mother. "Everyone is already looking forward to next year's." Thank you to our friends down under!

Everyone helps out at the Sausage Sizzle.

All FORE the Zach Attack Golf Scramble

May rains couldn't keep away 15 teams of faithful golfers supporting Zach and PRF. A big shout out to Zach Fuqua, AKA "Big Zach", who organizes the event every year, his wife and KY Chapter board member Holly, and the entire Fuqua family for being such a big part of Team Zach Attack's fundraising success.

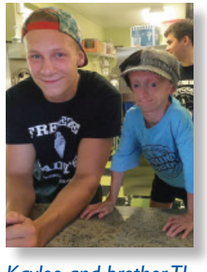
Zach and Scramble organizer/super volunteer Zach Fuqua.

NJ's Mountain Lakes High Fashion Show Shines for Team Zoey

Zoey and students from the Mountain Lakes school system strut their stuff during the 2016 Team Zoey Fashion Show. SO BEAUTIFUL!

3rd Time's a Charm for Ohio's Freeze Daddy's

This is a delicious community event. Glass City Corvettes and Oak Park Gang Car Club display cars, Kaylee serves ice cream with a smile, and Carly has fun with the crowds. Thanks to owner Ron Loeffler – Kaylee and Carly appreciate your support!

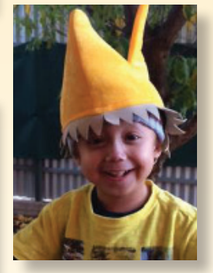


Kaylee and brother TJ work the counter.

The Etiwanda Intermediate School in CA is all IN for Hats ON day.

Hats ON for Progeria April 15, 2016: a global celebration of solidarity for children with Progeria

India's MediaMedic staff takes a Hats ON selfie.



Enzo dons his hat in Australia.

You can hold a Hats ON day at your school or business any time Contact us at volunteers@progeriaresearch.org for details!

(left to right) Jeff, Bob, Cam and Brooke are all smiles after a record-breaking event.

8th Annual Cam's Course flies like an Eagle!

Organizer Brooke Howard, AKA "Auntie Brooke" was overwhelmed by the success of this year's August tournament in Butler, PA. "I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together next year!" A special thank you to Brooke and her husband Jeff for all their hard work, and to Title Sponsor and Cam's good friend Bob McCarthy for his steadfast and generous support.

Team Zoey Turkey Trot Tops the Charts

The 5th Annual Team Zoey 5K run/1M walk was a huge success, with a record-breaking 1,000 participants in this Thanksgiving weekend tradition. The Active Times also named the NJ race one of the "Top 12 Turkey Trots Across the USA" – WOW!

Zoey leads the way.

Night of Wonder 2016: the biggest SCORE yet!

Our 8th Night of Wonder was an unforgettable evening that raised a record-breaking $570,000! The sports-related theme *"SCORE for the CURE"* was a huge hit, as guests celebrated PRF's championship successes that will lead to a cure for Progeria.

Co-chairs Melissa Tuttman and Mary Bellavance

There were many special highlights, from the thematic, never-before-seen outtake of Sam umpiring in *Life According to Sam*, to the heartfelt acceptance speeches of Amy Award winner Bob Morrison and S.A.M. (Science and Medicine) Award recipient Dr. Monica Kleinman. Thanks to the volunteers, auction donors, sponsors, advertisers and guests for being such hardcore fans for children with Progeria.

Our major sponsors helped make the evening a phenomenal success – Thank you all!

The Morrison Family
Leslie Gordon & Scott Berns
Debbie Mendelson Ponn

Bob (center, holding his award) and Gretchen Morrison and family.

SAVE THE DATE!

PRF'S INAUGURAL

CURE CUP CLASSIC

GOLF TOURNAMENT

2017 CureCup CLASSIC

MAY 15, 2017

IPSWICH COUNTRY CLUB, IPSWICH, MA

Contact us at info@progeriaresearch.org for sponsorship opportunities and to reserve your foursome. We'll get you started!

Progeria Research Foundation

P.O. Box 3453
Peabody, MA 01961-3453

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To learn more about how you can help, contact us:
info@progeriaresearch.org or call 978-535-2594

Aaditya of India is excited to start the school year!

Meghan gave a motivating speech at the 2016 International Workshop.

Introducing Our New Youth Ambassador, Meghan Waldron!

Accomplished cellist and violinist, high school cross country and track team athlete, published poet – Meghan Waldron is a talented and busy 15-year-old who will now add PRF Youth Ambassador to her impressive list of activities. Meghan will serve as spokesperson for The Progeria Research Foundation, from the perspective of a youth with Progeria.

We look forward to Meghan's participation in engaging youth around such events as Hats ON for Progeria, sharing her ideas on how to impact people through social media, and participating in PRF media outreach.

"I'm honored and excited to help raise awareness of Progeria and PRF among my peers and others around the world", she says. **Welcome, Meghan, we are too!**