**CdLS Foundation**
Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.
*Reaching Out, Providing Help, Giving Hope*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation Awards Research Grants

*Four researchers will share $23,000 in funding awarded by national nonprofit*

Avon, CT (September 12, 2013)— As part of its 2013 small grants program, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation awarded $23,000 to researchers studying various aspects of CdLS. The following projects were funded:

- *Treatment of Zebrafish Models for CdLS with L-leucine,* Jennifer Gerton, PhD, Stowers Institute for Medical Research (Missouri). This study will examine several parameters of zebrafish CdLS models, including growth. The results of these studies will determine which developmental defects in the zebrafish are improved with the amino acid L-leu.
- *Airway and Anesthetic Telephone Survey for Children and Adults with CdLS,* Yvon Bryan, MD, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina). The goal of this study is to create best practices for administering anesthesia to people with CdLS and dealing with difficult airways/intubation.
- *Mitochondrial Dysfunction in CdLS,* Clair Francomano, MD, Greater Baltimore Medical Center (Maryland). This research study will explore evidence of oxidative stress changes in CdLS, which would indicate increased susceptibility to development of mitochondrial dysfunction.
- *Heterozygous Drosophila Models for CdLS.* Yaning Wu, PhD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). This project will use fruit fly CdLS models to reveal the genes and pathways downstream of CdLS-like mutations in hopes of carrying out therapeutic drugs screens in the future.

Researchers will present their findings at the sixth biennial CdLS Scientific Symposia, June 25-26, 2014, in Costa Mesa, CA.

For more information about CdLS, the CdLS Foundation or to make a donation to support individuals with CdLS, call the Foundation at 800-753-2357 or visit www.cdlsusa.org.

## About CdLS

CdLS affects males and females equally and seen in all races. Although individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms. Common medical problems include gastroesophageal reflux, bowel malrotation, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

## About the CdLS Foundation

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a national family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS and their families make informed decisions throughout their lifetime.

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