

# Be Part of the Cure!



Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you and your family members well and enjoying the beginnings of autumn. Your Georgia Chapter has been very busy and I am, pleased to share news of our current activities in this e-newsletter.

Recently, there have been several exciting new discoveries and projects undertaken in the field of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. You can take great pride in the fact that **you** are funding the work that is truly making a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

I thank you for all that you do for children and adults with IBD.

Warmly,  
Marcia Greenburg  
Executive Director

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## Patient Services

CCFA is excited to announce our new online community! This community is one of the many ways we're improving and increasing our patient's ability to access the right resources and support 24/7. The forum is a great way to learn from others and share advice and personal stories. Check it out at [www.ccfacommunity.org](http://www.ccfacommunity.org).

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## Studying IBD in Children

CCFA is now funding a pilot program, The Pediatric Network. By examining a newly diagnosed group of children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis for genetic, clinical and immunologic markers, we anticipate being able to predict aggressive versus benign disease as well as response to therapy

This information can then be translated into clinical studies testing the hypothesis that early, aggressive therapy in selected patients may decrease the likelihood of developing severe complications. These findings would then be applied toward improving prognosis in adult patients. Studies will identify best outcomes and educate physicians as to the best treatment options for their patients.

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## Research

### 21 New Genes Identified:

- A consortium of researchers from the United States, Canada, and Europe has identified 21 new genes for Crohn's disease. While the biochemical functions of these genes and how they trigger inflammation in the intestines requires further study, they all represent potential targets for the development of new medications.

### The Microbiome Project:

- CCFA is proud to announce the launch of its Gut Microbiome Initiative. The research, which also encompasses the question of how our gut microbial communities are acquired and sustained, has focused on identical and fraternal twins and their mothers. Using the latest DNA technology, they

will study the complex role that intestinal microbial communities play in digestive health and in disease states.

Knowing how to rapidly and accurately define the nature and operations of the gut microbiome should help investigators develop new insights about the mechanisms that lead to IBD, better ways to diagnose and categorize IBD, new therapeutic approaches, and ultimately, new ways to prevent these disorders in susceptible individuals.

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## Chapter News

### Team Challenge

- **Team Challenge is the CCFA's national half marathon program. This season the Georgia chapter will take 21 walkers and runners to San Antonio, Texas to complete a half marathon in honor of a Crohn's or colitis patient. The money that Team Challenge participants raise will fund critical research programs that benefit IBD patients nationwide. Get in shape, go on a great trip and help someone at the same time! Contact Angel Whitworth for more information and upcoming destinations for Team Challenge at [awhitworth@ccfa.org](mailto:awhitworth@ccfa.org)**

### Torch Gala

- **The Torch Gala is here again! The Gala is a beautiful dinner, dance and auction that benefits CCFA programs and services. This event will be held on Saturday, November 8 at the fantastic InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta. Tables and individual tickets are available for those that would like to attend this fantastic event. Contact Karen Rittenbaum at [krittenbaum@ccfa.org](mailto:krittenbaum@ccfa.org) for more information.**

### Education and Support Services

- **The Georgia Chapter recently hosted both professional and patient education programs for almost 200 attendees. These were world class programs and we plan to host comparable events in August 2009.**
- ***Support Group Facilitator Training:* There are several areas in which we plan to have new support groups. In order to do so, we need more facilitators. If you would like to serve as a facilitator please contact Mary Ball at 404.982.0616 or [mball@ccfa.org](mailto:mball@ccfa.org). Support group facilitator training will be *Saturday, January 10 from 1-4 p.m.***
- ***The Buddy Program* will be kicking off by the end of 2008! The Buddy Program will match patients who request support with patients who would like to provide support. For more information contact Mary Ball at the Chapter office.**

### Staff and Board Members

- **The Georgia Chapter is pleased to welcome its' new staff members and board members!**
  - **Larry Fussell, Board Member; Price Waterhouse, Coopers**
  - **Jeff Kamin, Board Member; Kamin and Associates**
  - **Subra Kugathasan, M.D., Board Member; Emory University**
  - **Mary Ball, Education and Support Manager**
  - **Jennifer Cobb, Take Steps Walk Manager**

Go to [www.ccfa.org](http://www.ccfa.org)  
to learn more about CCFA or to make a donation.

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