

# Be Part of the Cure!



Dear Friends,

The New Year is upon us and with it comes hope for new discoveries that will improve the lives of children and adults with Crohn's and ulcerative colitis.

For four decades, the Foundation has funded the best research in the world – research that has yielded many important discoveries. Today, we are in the midst of a scientific revolution, fueled by exciting new technologies in immunology, genetics and microbiology. We are able to translate basic scientific information into new treatments more rapidly than ever before. As a result, the quality of life for many patients has improved, however there are many still suffering.

That is why CCFA is committed to dramatically increasing our investment in research over the next three years and beyond. In 2006 our cash investment in research was \$10.9 million and within the next three years we plan to triple that investment. One of the exciting new projects to be funded, the Surrogate Markers Initiative, is highlighted below. This is a four year project with estimated cost of approximately \$2.7 million. These projects are funded because of the generosity of people like you.

If you would like additional information on any topics highlighted here, please feel free to contact me at 404 982-0616.

Warmly,  
Marcia Greenburg  
Executive Director

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## Studying IBD in Children

- Approximately one out of every three children with IBD will suffer from growth failure and delayed onset of puberty. Since more than 90% of bone mass is achieved during childhood and adolescence, osteoporosis is a very real, long-term concern. CCFA is pleased that for the first time in its history, it is funding five research projects focused on this critical area of concern.

### Additional areas of pediatric research are as follows:

- Studying the effect of IBD on students' adjustment to college
- Investigation into the basis of intestinal inflammation in pediatric IBD with an eye toward new options for diagnosis and therapy.
- The creation of a nationwide Pediatric IBD Network created to support future pediatric research studies, aimed at improving the quality of care for children with IBD.
- CCFA recently created the "Pediatric IBD Comic Book", the first piece of educational literature specifically targeting children 8 – 12 years old.

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## New Treatments

Tysabri is now approved for treatment in adult patients with moderate to severe Crohn's disease and will be available by the end of February. The unique mechanism of action of this drug affords us a new class of therapy in our fight against Crohn's disease.

Surrogate markers are measurable patterns of substances in blood, stool, or elsewhere in the body that help identify and track the progression of a disease. Genes, antibodies, proteins, and other cell types are all examples of surrogate markers. Today there are genetic tests to diagnose cystic fibrosis and blood tests that help doctors spot antibodies linked to lupus. Known surrogate markers for IBD aren't sensitive enough to categorize the disease subtype at this time. Researchers hope to identify an entire arsenal of markers and develop non-invasive tests for them in the near future.

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### Why Do We Need More Research?

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Although we have made very significant advances...these facts remain:

- 1.4 million people in the United States suffer from Crohn's and ulcerative colitis
- 2.2 million people in Europe are afflicted
- Countless others struggle but are not diagnosed
- Worldwide 120,000 men, women and children are diagnosed each year
- We still don't know the causes of Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis
- No existing medication induces remission in all patients.
- We can't prevent relapses of disease.
- We don't know how to prevent complications of IBD (abscesses, fistulae, obstruction and cancer)
- We don't know how to predict who will develop IBD or how to prevent high-risk individuals from developing symptoms and progressive disease.

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

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