

# Blastocystis Research Foundation

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5060 SW Philomath Blvd, #202  
Corvallis, OR 97333-1044  
FAX/VM: 815-572-9701  
[www.bhomcenter.org](http://www.bhomcenter.org)

October 1, 2006

Representative Darlene Hooley  
United States House of Representatives  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Representative Hooley:

I wanted to write to introduce you to our organization, and provide some information to your board about an emerging infectious disease in the Willamette Valley.

I formed the Blastocystis Research Foundation after I was diagnosed with a gastrointestinal infection called "Blastocystis." My case was unresponsive to antibiotics, and after 3 years of diarrhea, my symptoms worsened to the point that I was unable to work and had to go on disability. Since then, my daughter has been diagnosed with this infection, and within 2 blocks of my home, I know of at least 3 other families dealing with chronic, unexplained gastrointestinal problems which have begun in the last several years.

In private conversations with doctors, I have been told that infection with this disease has been a problem in Oregon for many years, that symptoms have gotten worse recently, and people in certain areas of Corvallis are exhibiting an unusual degree of disease. Despite this, doctors have not taken a lead in publicizing this problem or addressing it.

I have contacted the NIH and CDC concerning this, and there is a lack of resources to perform any investigation into this disease. I am surprised that we have dismantled our system for addressing emerging infectious diseases to the point that patients need to take these projects on themselves. Privately, many researchers have told me they would like to work on this, but have been reassigned to Biodefence. What irony – if the infection is already here, it can not be investigated, but if someone threatens to bring it here, it is worthy of attention. As such, using my own savings, I have:

1. Published the enclosed reference text.
2. Made arrangements with a medical diagnostics company to develop and market for research purposes a serum antibody test for Blastocystis
3. Contacted researchers at Oregon State University to try to interest them in a program for developing additional

In the coming months, we will be working with newspapers and patients to publicize this infection. This is a new infectious disease which our medical system is unprepared for. It is currently unmonitored, it has taken an incredible toll on my family, and I believe it has the potential to create incredible personal and economic damage to our society.

I hope I can count on your office to work with the NIH and CDC to make them aware of the seriousness of this situation, and to form an appropriate response with specific objectives and timelines. Thank you very much for your attention.

Best Regards,

Ken Boorum  
Director, Blastocystis Research Foundation  
[Boorum@comcast.net](mailto:Boorum@comcast.net)  
541-738-3055

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October 1, 2006

Senator Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Wyden:

I wanted to write to introduce you to our organization, and provide some information to your board about an emerging infectious disease in the Willamette Valley.

I formed the Blastocystis Research Foundation after I was diagnosed with a gastrointestinal infection called "Blastocystis." My case was unresponsive to antibiotics, and after 3 years of diarrhea, my symptoms worsened to the point that I was unable to work and had to go on disability. Since then, my daughter has been diagnosed with this infection, and within 2 blocks of my home, I know of at least 3 other families dealing with chronic, unexplained gastrointestinal problems which have begun in the last several years.

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October 1, 2006

Senator Gordon Smith  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Smith:

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I formed the Blastocystis Research Foundation after I was diagnosed with a gastrointestinal infection called "Blastocystis." My case was unresponsive to antibiotics, and after 3 years of diarrhea, my symptoms worsened to the point that I was unable to work and had to go on disability. Since then, my daughter has been diagnosed with this infection, and within 2 blocks of my home, I know of at least 3 other families dealing with chronic, unexplained gastrointestinal problems which have begun in the last several years.

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