

Blastocystis Research Foundation

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

February 2, 2008

Representative Darlene Hooley
1130 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hooley,

I'm writing you to request your help in addressing infection with *Blastocystis*. *Blastocystis* is a gastrointestinal parasite which produces symptoms of abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, and more severe symptoms.

My family moved to Oregon in 2000 and we contracted the infection in March of 2003, possibly from a restaurant for a neighbor's family who had been sick for several years. I have the most severe symptoms, which have recently expanded to include neurological problems and skin rashes. My children are also ill. We are all immunocompetent and had no health problems prior to relocating to Oregon.

Researchers have told me that the NIH has counseled them not to apply for grants in this area because "there is no proof that *Blastocystis* causes disease" (see attached list of almost 100 journal articles identifying it as disease causing). There is no FDA approved treatment for this infection. The NIH has not sponsored any research in over 10 years.

Our dog developed these symptoms in August of 2004, including vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain, and cysts under his skin. We had to euthanize him in September 2004.

In 2006, I became so sick that it put me on medical disability for 3 months (cost=\$13,000).

(personal information deleted) The enclosed article notes the development of pre-cancerous polyps in animals infected with this for just a few weeks. I do not understand why the NIH would oppose research into this infection.

There is some confusion regarding *Blastocystis*, because multiple types exist. The attached graph shows the prevalence of *Blastocystis* in the US and Western States for the last 20 years. During that time a new subtype or subtypes of *Blastocystis* may have been introduced into this region, and are responsible for chronic illness.

(personal information deleted)

A properly designed antibiotic treatment may cure these cases. But this isn't something that a family doctor can develop. We need to convince the NIH to permit research in this area.

Given the study showing death and pre-cancerous growths in animals, I'd to ask your help in encouraging the NIH to reconsider their approach to *Blastocystis* infection. One way they could do this would be to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) specifically for clinical research in *Blastocystis* infection.

Best Regards,

Ken Boorum
Cc: Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director NIH

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

Dear Senator Wyden,

I'm writing you to request your help in addressing infection with *Blastocystis*. *Blastocystis* is a gastrointestinal parasite which produces symptoms of abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, and more severe symptoms.

My family moved to Oregon in 2000 and we contracted the infection in March of 2003, possibly from a restaurant for a neighbor's family who had been sick for several years. I have the most severe symptoms, which have recently expanded to include neurological problems and skin rashes. My children are also ill. We are all immunocompetent and had no health problems prior to relocating to Oregon.

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Our dog developed these symptoms in August of 2004, including vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain, and cysts under his skin. We had to euthanize him in September 2004.

In 2006, I became so sick that it put me on medical disability for 3 months (cost=\$13,000). I have developed growths in my arms, and a recurring growth in my left eye. Our medical and disability expenses exceed \$20,000 and they are growing.

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As such, this may be a new infection, and we don't know its long-term effects. (personal information deleted)

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

Dear Senator Smith,

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