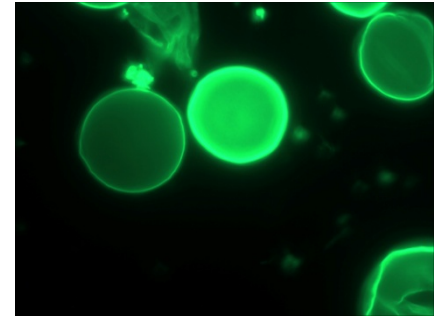


# Cure a disease...get a tax deduction



Who discovers new epidemics? Since 2005, five Nobel Prizes have been awarded in medicine for discovering a link between an infectious organism and a disease. None of them went to US researchers, despite the fact that we're spending over \$20 billion on medical research yearly. **If we performed that badly at the Olympics, there would be a national uproar.** We're investigating why US scientists aren't able to identify infectious diseases. But we're also working hard to make sure this deficiency

doesn't wreck the lives of millions of Americans, and Oregon's local economies. We've created the "Patient Supported Research" (PSR) logo to recognize where the funding for *Blastocystis* research in the US has come from. ***This is the first time patients have been the sole source for the leadership and funding of a program to stop an epidemic.***



For the last year, we've been working with a private company to develop a reliable diagnostic test for *Blastocystis*. This test is now being **distributed world-wide for free** (see photo above) to researchers who will publish discoveries about 'irritable bowel syndrome' and auto-immune diseases. If you'd like to learn more about what dedication and American ingenuity can do, log on to our web site, <http://www.bhomcenter.org>.

## July 22, 2009. History repeats itself: Oregonians get nailed again

In 1954, over 50,000 Oregonians were sickened when the public water supply became contaminated by *Giardia*, seen at the right. Medical journals refused to publish the account, stating that *Giardia* was harmless, even though the scientific community had identified *Giardia* as disease causing for years. Oregon's Health department refused to take any action (as they have done again with *Blastocystis*).

Oregonians would have to wait 26 years to get any protection from *Giardia*, and state officials never did help. In 1980, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, and the story about Oregon's epidemic could finally be published.

Congress directed the EPA to force state governments to clean up their act.

After that, OHSU became one of the world centers for *Giardia* research .....[read more online at http://KeepOregonHealthy.org](http://KeepOregonHealthy.org)



**July 21, 2009. Cancer and Infectious Diseases.** Most advances in the prevention of cancer are now coming from infectious disease groups. It turns out that most cervical cancer comes from the virus that causes genital warts. Stomach cancer comes from a bacteria. Liver cancer comes from a virus ([read more online at http://KeepOregonHealthy.org](http://KeepOregonHealthy.org))

**\*\* Ask about our Adopt-A-Study program \*\***

# Questions about BRF

**Who are you guys?** BRF is a non-profit organization headquartered in Corvallis, Oregon. We are managed by a five-member board of directors with over 100 years of infectious disease and clinical experience.

**What have you published about people who are getting sick in Oregon?** Summaries of all of our publications are available on our web site. In 2007, we published a study called, "*Association of Blastocystis subtypes 3 and 1 with chronic gastrointestinal illness in an Oregon Community.*" We found that about half of the individuals in the study, most of whom were diagnosed with IBS or 'multiple food allergies' actually had been infected with *Blastocystis* which had not been identified in recent tests.

**I thought government organizations did this work** So did we!

## Questions about Blastocystis

**How can I get diagnosed for *Blastocystis* infection?** Your physician can order a generic stool test called an "Ova and Parasite exam." However, this test uses an older methodology, and more sensitive ([read more online at http://KeepOregonHealthy.org](http://KeepOregonHealthy.org))

**If I have *Blastocystis* infection, what is the treatment?** There is no FDA-approved treatment for *Blastocystis* infection. Quite simply, nobody has bothered to perform any reasonable laboratory investigation to figure out what to use ([read more online at http://KeepOregonHealthy.org](http://KeepOregonHealthy.org))

**In my family, some of us have developed chronic GI illness, and some are very sick, while others are not so sick. Why do people show different symptoms?** This has been the \$64,000 question for a number of years, and scientists have been asking the same question in many other diseases. These include cholera, typhoid fever, swine flu, and others. When completely healthy people are infected, some people become deathly ill, while others don't. In the last five years, researchers finally figured out why ([read more online at http://KeepOregonHealthy.org](http://KeepOregonHealthy.org))

**I've been sick for over 15 years with something that nobody can figure out. Do infections really last this long? And do the symptoms go away when they are treated?** Yes and Yes. That's one reason why associating an infectious disease with an illness is a "home run" from a public health standpoint. ([read more online at http://KeepOregonHealthy.org](http://KeepOregonHealthy.org))

