



# CdLS Foundation

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.  
*Reaching Out, Providing Help, Giving Hope*

## CdLS Foundation Contact:

Brenda Shepard, 800-753-2357

[bshepard@CdLSusa.org](mailto:bshepard@CdLSusa.org)

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation  
302 West Main Street #100 Avon, CT 06001

## Catonsville Resident Joins Board of Directors for National Nonprofit

Catonsville, MD (January 17, 2013)— The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation has added Julia O'Connor, Ph.D. to its Board of Directors.

O'Connor, of Catonsville, MD, is the director of Day Treatment Services for the Neurobehavioral Unit at the Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI) in Baltimore, MD. She has been on faculty since 1994. O'Connor also teaches graduate level classes at Johns Hopkins as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Education.

"We are so glad to have Julia join the Board," said Marie Concklin-Malloy, executive director of the CdLS Foundation. "She's brought invaluable experience to the organization and has been such a valued resource for the Foundation staff and families we serve nationwide."

O'Connor completed her pre-doctoral internship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, an affiliate of KKI.

"I am so fortunate to have been asked to serve on the board of the CdLS Foundation with such a wonderful group of individuals," said O'Connor. "I am looking forward to promoting the Foundation's mission, while focusing on how the board can best support the growth and well-being of the organization."

O'Connor is an alumna of Rutgers College and earned her master's and doctorate degrees in Clinical Psychology at the State University of NY in Binghamton.

For more information about the CdLS Foundation or to make a donation, call the CdLS Foundation at 800-753-2357 or visit [www.cdlsusa.org](http://www.cdlsusa.org).

### About CdLS

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births. An estimated 20,000 people in the U.S. have CdLS but remain undiagnosed and/or without support services. Individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, though most have similar physical characteristics including small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; an upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb differences, including missing fingers or arms. Common medical problems include GERD, bowel obstruction, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects. Early diagnosis and intervention is essential to ensure proper management of related medical issues.

### About the Foundation

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation is a national family support organization that exists to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS, promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome, and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS and their families make informed decisions throughout their lifetime.