



CdLS Foundation

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

Contact: Marie Concklin Malloy, Director of External Affairs
outreach@CdLSusa.org; 800-753-2357

Eileen Ahearn joins CdLS Foundation Board of Directors



Madison, WI (February 20, 2009)—Eileen Ahearn, M.D., Ph.D., of Madison has joined the board of directors of the national Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation, a non-profit organization based near Hartford, CT.

The mother of a 20-year-old son with CdLS, Dr. Ahearn has been involved with the Foundation since 1998 and previously served on the board of directors from 1997 to 2003. Additionally, she has run the Chicago Marathon twice as part of Team CdLS and has served on the Foundation's Clinical Advisory Board.

Dr. Ahearn is the Medical Director of Mental Health at the Madison V.A. Hospital and an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin.

The CdLS Foundation board of directors consists of parents, relatives and professionals working together to carry out the mission of the CdLS Foundation.

What is CdLS?

CdLS is a genetic syndrome that 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.

Although individuals with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small size, hands and feet; thin eyebrows that meet in the middle; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips. Some individuals have limb

differences, including missing fingers or arms, and partial joining of the toes. Common medical problems include gastroesophageal reflux, bowel malrotation, hearing loss, and congenital heart defects.

About the Foundation

Founded in 1981, the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) Foundation is a 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 make informed decisions throughout their lifetime. For more information, call 800-753-2357 or go to www.CdLSusa.org.

#####