

Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation, Inc.

Fighting bone marrow diseases through patient support & research
Over two decades of commitment & service 1983-2004

May 1, 2004

Dear Friend,

Rare can be defined as “unfamiliar, known to a few.” **Aplastic Anemia & MDS are considered “rare” diseases, yet they strike an estimated 40,000 people each year.**

Most newly-diagnosed patients, hear the name of their rare disease for the first time ... and during those shocking first moments, and the months and years that follow, they learn that having a rare disease often means feeling very alone and isolated – for the patient and for those who love them.

For thousands of patients and their families, finding medical professionals who are experts in bone marrow failure diseases may also be rare. And being able to find medical statistics and research on these diseases is rare as well.

And it also feels rare to find effective treatments, much less a cure. And the possibility of finding another who shares this disease is rarer still.

For these patients and families, there is a lifeline in a seemingly endless sea of uncertainty ... it's the Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation.

We are the primary source of updated medical information. We're the referral for nationwide clinical trial treatment opportunities. We point patients to medical experts, who can answer their questions and offer treatment.

We also connect patients to other patients and families, who share treatment experiences. And we provide much needed emotional support and resources necessary to manage these rare diseases.

We assist patients and their families in navigating all these tumultuous seas!

And through partnerships with various distinguished organizations, such as the National Institutes of Health, we fund leading edge medical research investigating the causes, treatments and possible cures for bone marrow failure diseases.

All of these research efforts have greatly increased survival rates and treatment options. We are working very hard to make sure that these “rare,” and often neglected, diseases get the funding and research attention necessary to keep up the fight.

**Our work offers hope for the future for patients and their families.
Our work saves lives!**

Won't you help us continue our life-saving work, by supporting our efforts? Please make a generous donation today of \$50 or \$100 or more.

As a supporter of our efforts you, too, are a rare hero ... making a **real** difference in the lives of thousands of families, battling bone marrow failure disease.

With sincerest appreciation,

Robert Carroll, Ed.D.
President & 14-year MDS Survivor

P.S. For your convenience, we have enclosed a donor card. So, won't you please search your heart and contribute what you can? As you know, only a tiny fraction of what you contribute is applied to administrative costs ... all the rest goes directly toward our invaluable programs.

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