

Two Mothers Discover GERD is Genetic And Pave The Road for A Cure
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This abstract details some of the obstacles that one patient group had to overcome in their quest to really understand the underlying cause of their disease and to start the first study that may lead to a cure for GERD. The obstacles faced are very common in the medical field. A cultural change is necessary so that other patient groups with unusual ideas won't have to face years of ridicule before finding collaborators and being published in JAMA. (Mapping of a Gene for Severe Pediatric Gastroesophageal Reflux to Chromosome 13q14: *JAMA*.2000;284:325-334)

- There is no greater motivation to find a cure than watching a loved one suffer.
- There is no more devoted "specialist" than a patient who has the luxury of devoting their time to understanding one single disease.
- There is no more powerful way of identifying unique research needs than brainstorming with patients and patient organizations.

Do you think of patient groups as needy and wanting things from you?

Are you missing an opportunity to receive ideas from patients that might lead to breakthroughs rather than dosage tinkering?

Are you and your colleagues open minded enough to take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by a true collaboration with patients?

Are you ready to go out today and find a laughable patient theory to test?

In 1992 inherited GERD was a completely laughable idea. Today it is widely accepted. The Inherited GERD Gene Mapping Study is poised to completely revise our understanding of GERD. We are seeking partners. Your company could keep tinkering with symptom control, or you could be the first to start working on novel GERD treatments – or a cure.

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