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News Advisory
19th Season of the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus

Children Aging Before Their Time: Can Progeria Now Be Treated **BRIEFING**

The Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) cordially invites you to attend a briefing of the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus on *Children Aging Before Their Time: Can Progeria Now Be Treated?* on Wednesday, February 25, in Room 122 Cannon House Office Building. Lunch will be served starting promptly at 12:00 noon for those registered to attend the briefing. Our distinguished speaker will be Dr. Stephen Young, of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Imagine suffering with heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis, or a combination of all three—when you are only 13! Rapid aging, including wizened skin and thinning hair, is the reality for children who suffer from Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome (HGPS).

Up until the early 1990s, very little was known about this rare genetic disease. Today we know progeria is caused by a tiny mutation in a single gene, lamin A (*LMNA*). Still, the only drugs available are those that treat the ailments of aging. There are no current treatments for the underlying condition. But there is hope! Join Dr. Stephen Young as he discusses how his laboratory is testing new methods using a drug targeted for cancer — the farnesyltransferase inhibitor—that has been shown to reduce the severity of the disease. Children with HGPS have cells with deformed nuclei. Tests on mice show that treatment with the drug results in a higher proportion of normally shaped nuclei, which leads to a decrease in the severity of symptoms and an increase in bone density. Based on these findings, this drug is now being tested in children with HGPS.

The Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus provides a forum where Members and staff can interact directly with preeminent researchers responsible for important scientific discoveries. Many of the stunning advances, made possible by NIH funding, highlighted in these presentations have led to improved understanding of the cause, treatment, and prevention of human disease.

We hope you will be able to attend this important briefing. Please RSVP to Lynn Marquis at the CLS at (301) 347-9309 or clc@jscpp.org.

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (301) 634-7384 (301) 634-7108–fax www.ascb.org	The American Society for Cell Biology (301) 347-9300 (301) 374-9310–fax www.ascb.org	The American Society for Clinical Investigation (734) 222-6050 (734) 222-6058–fax www.ascb-jci.org	The Genetics Society of America (3014) 634-7300 (301) 634-7079–fax www.genetics-gsa.org	Howard Hughes Medical Institute (301) 215-8500 (301) 215-8863–fax www.hhmi.org	Society for Neuroscience (202) 962-4000 (202) 962-4941–fax www.sfn.org	Society for Science & the Public (202) 785-2255 (202) 331-1127–fax www.societyfor-science.org
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