

Blastocystis Research Foundation

5060 SW Philomath Blvd, #202
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<http://KeepOregonHealthy.org>

Dear Friend,

Did you know that HIV entered the US in 1965? US experts had no idea the virus existed or was causing AIDS until French scientists at the Pasteur Institute discovered it in 1982. In fact, US experts were blaming toxins and drug use for the symptoms seen in AIDS patients, and insisting the disease was non-infectious.

What happens when patients get a disease before doctors know about it? They stay sick. They infect others. They incur astronomical medical bills. They undergo unnecessary surgery. They lose their jobs. Some commit suicide.

Scientists from the Pasteur Institute won the 2008 Nobel Prize for saving a generation of Americans from this fate. **And today, scientists from that institution are helping us understand why so many people in Oregon have developed chronic gastrointestinal illness. And we'd like your help.**

Blastocystis (BLAST-OH-SIS-TIS) is a single-celled organism that will cause chronic gastrointestinal illness in many otherwise healthy people. You can get *Blastocystis* from a glass of water, or poorly washed lettuce, and it will be a lifelong illness in many patients unless we develop a treatment.

“Four years ago I went to buy a green juice....my life has been hell: I can not sleep because of a heat feeling on my shoulder area and all over my body, colitis, leaky gut, blooded, feeling suicidal, restless, fog like feeling, etc. Before this I had a normal life worked out 4 to five times a week but now I'm miserable.” – J in California (Blastocystis patient)

BRF is the only group in the United States taking on what is now Oregon's #1 chronic gastrointestinal infection. **And because our public health agencies have declined requests for assistance, we're doing it entirely with volunteer work from scientists and private donations from people like you.** Here is what one patient from Eugene wrote to us about his experience:

“My story begins in August of 2005. My wife and I decided to move to Eugene for a faster paced life. The mistake I made was to begin drinking the water. I thought that because of the rains Oregon receives, it would have clean pure drinking water. I soon learned otherwise.....The first symptom I noticed was diarrhea. It was different from what I had experienced to that point. I would eat what I thought to be a regular meal. But no matter what I ate, I would have diarrhea, yellow watery, diarrhea. By coincidence my wife began having diarrhea. We tried eating yogurt and rye crisp crackers to get regular. The diarrhea continued”
– CG in Eugene - written to BRF (and published in online book) by CG in Eugene

We're fighting every day to protect your health, and develop treatments to cure Oregonians who've gotten sick with this, so they can live normal lives. Doctors don't have the tools they need to diagnose or treat the disease, so patients are diagnosed with **irritable bowel syndrome, 'food allergies' or even psychiatric illness.** We need to stop this disease **NOW**, or the next generation of children in this country will be among the sickest we have seen in a hundred years. Please take a look at the enclosed materials, and consider making a **tax deductible donation to BRF.**

Sincerely,



Ken Boorom
Vice President Research, BRF

Parasitol Res
DOI 10.1007/s00436-008-1198-7
ORIGINAL PAPER

Association of *Blastocystis* subtype 3 and 1 with patients
from an Oregon community presenting with chronic
gastrointestinal illness
Morris S. Jones · Christopher M. Whipps ·
D. Ganac · N. Ryan Hudson · Kenneth Boorom



Salem, OR. April 2007.
Testifying to the Oregon
State Legislature's Health
Policy Committee.

What we're doing for you...

Here's a sample of the work we've been doing in the Willamette Valley for the last 3 years. You can view abstracts of all of BRF's studies on the National Institutes of Health's Pubmed database. Our web site, <http://KeepOregonHealthy.org>, has details.

We're raising money to test patients in Oregon, and also to test food and water samples to find out how the disease is spreading. We receive no financial support from the State of Oregon or the CDC. Many officials from these organizations will not return our phone calls or letters. But researchers at national institutions in 6 countries outside the US are very interested in what is going on here. We're getting the job done with thousands of hours of volunteered time, as well as help from military researchers, and private labs in the US. BRF collaborating authors represent some of the leading experts in the world in the field of parasitology and protozoal studies.

BRF is about results, not endless publications. The cover of this mailing shows our latest project, a diagnostic test that makes *Blastocystis* glow in the dark, making it easier to diagnose. I've been a patient since 2003, and I donated my own blood to help develop this. The test is now being shipped to research labs around the world.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to BRF so we can continue this work. For a donation of \$42.84, not much more than an insurance co-pay, we can buy a box of stool collection vials (Fischer Scientific Price). For a donation of \$100, we can pay part of the \$1800 we need to get a special permit to collect stool from Oregonians for testing (Western IRB Board Price).



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“My body was absorbing little of what I ate because of the diarrhea. I became dizzy and weak enough not to work...my supervisor at work said they were letting me go because of poor performance.”

“The first time I went to the emergency room. The doctor prescribed Zantac at 150 milligrams. That was an experience. My heart raced, I felt dizzy and weak, and could not do anything. My weight loss began to make me so weak, I would shake. The doctors recommended that I increase the dosage of Zantac to 300 milligrams. I began having pains that radiated from my chest to my arm. Surprising to me, no further interest was shown by the gastroenterologist in treating me. He referred me to a general practitioner.

Blastocystis patient from Eugene, Oregon

About Blastocystis Research Foundation

Organization: We are an IRS qualified 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization headquartered in Corvallis, Oregon.

* **Experience and results:** BRF's management team has over 100 years of infectious disease and clinical experience. We collaborated on the first study to identify *Blastocystis* in a 'Gulf War Illness' patient, and the first study to genotype *Blastocystis* from US citizens with chronic illness of unknown cause. See our web site for a list of other firsts.

* **Collaboration:** Although we work with Oregon patients, in the last two years we've published studies with scientists from China's Center for Disease Control, the US Department of Defense, a World Health Organization Coordinating Center for the Epidemiology of Parasitic Infections, and the Pasteur Institute. See our web site, <http://KeepOregonHealthy.org> for links to publications.

* **Results and Cost Efficiency:** We're showing that a small private group, working with qualified scientists and international researchers, can successfully solve a problem that has baffled other researchers with millions in federal grants. We've co-authored seven papers and articles since 2007 on a budget of less than \$5,000 per year. That's less than the cost of an endoscopy/colonoscopy.

Look what we found in Oregonians with 'food allergies' and irritable bowel syndrome

