



MITOACTION.ORG IMPROVES MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS

September 29, 2008
Boston

National Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week successfully improved awareness and understanding of mitochondrial diseases and the challenges facing individuals who are affected. During this week MitoAction.org renewed their commitment to educate, support and advocate on behalf of mitochondrial disease patients and their families.

The mitochondria act as the “powerhouse” of the cell to produce energy for the body to live. On Wednesday, September 24th, international families and friends joined together to **"Light a Light for Mito"**, supporting all who are afflicted and remembering the infants, children and adults who have lost their battle with mitochondrial disease.

Mitochondrial disease is an energy metabolism disorder that affects babies, children, and adults of all ages, races, and gender. Experts agree that at least 1 in 4000 individuals have mitochondrial disease; however, "Mito" may be under diagnosed until improvements in diagnosis and awareness occur.

Symptoms of “Mito” vary in type and severity, and commonly include muscle weakness, fatigue, seizures, gastrointestinal dysfunction, developmental delay, vision and hearing loss, and organ failure. Today there is no cure for mitochondrial disease; treatment is focused on energy conservation and vitamin therapy.

Mitochondrial dysfunction has been related to other diseases including autism, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

MitoAction received over \$100,000 in donations and 21,000 website visits as a result of awareness initiatives during the month of September. Donations will be used to fund programs which fulfill the mission of support and patient care for mitochondrial disease patients.

MitoAction is a 501(c)3 charity formally incorporated in 2005 to provide programs and resources centered on support, education, and advocacy for patients and families affected by mitochondrial disease. Learn more, show your support and request your green awareness ribbon at www.MitoAction.org.

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