



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MitoAction hosts Mitochondrial Disease Clinical Conference

In an ongoing effort to improve mitochondrial disease patient care, MitoAction, in collaboration with the organization's Medical Advisory Committee, will host the 2013 Mitochondrial Disease Clinical Conference on May 4, 2013 at Hotel Marlowe in Cambridge, MA.

The conference will offer physicians and specialists who are not mitochondrial experts an opportunity to understand more about identifying mitochondrial diseases, managing adults and children with mitochondrial disorders, and assisting patients with treatment options and coordinated care. Expert faculty will provide the most clinically relevant information with the intention of helping to educate healthcare providers about specific strategies for helping the mitochondrial disease patient. The conference has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) and MitoAction.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of educating and engaging the community of physicians who care for our children and family members who suffer from mitochondrial disease," said Cristy Balcells, RN MSN, Executive Director of MitoAction. "This clinical conference provides a platform for that dialogue, and for misconceptions about mitochondrial disease to be overcome. It is our goal to focus on what is most clinically relevant and practical so that healthcare providers are truly better equipped to manage their Mito patients."

Mitochondrial disease is an inherited chronic illness that causes debilitating physical, developmental, and mental disabilities. You can be born with it or it can develop later in life. It's progressive and there is no cure. About 1 in 2,000 people has Mito. Symptoms include poor growth, loss of muscle coordination, muscle weakness and pain, seizures, vision and/or hearing loss, gastrointestinal issues, learning disabilities, and heart, liver, or kidney failure. Mito is also related to autism, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's.

The course directors for the conference are: Katherine Sims, MD, Mass General Hospital, Boston; Mark Korson, MD, Tufts Floating Hospital, Boston; Fran Kendall, MD, VMP, Atlanta, and Cristy Balcells, RN MSN, Executive Director of MitoAction.

MitoAction's medical education initiatives are made possible through grant support from Edison Pharmaceuticals, Stealth Peptides, and Courtagen Life Sciences, Inc.

To register or for more information, please visit www.mitoaction.org/clinicalconference or email info@mitoaction.org.

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. For more information, visit www.mitoaction.org.