



*“collaborative biomedical  
research of A-T, cancer and other  
neuro-and immunodegenerative  
diseases associated with  
premature aging”*

1992-2007

## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF PROGRESS



**Patrick Howard**

**February 21, 1986-August 15, 2000**

**A**s many of you know, we started this foundation in 1992, not because we wanted to save the world, but because we wanted to save Patrick's life and also those of other children with ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T). Now 15 years later and seven years since Patrick's death, our goals have broadened.

Because A-T is applicable to so many degenerative diseases, our mission now is to help find treatments for those diseases. We are not interested in academic research, but rather research with results — and results we are getting!

This newsletter highlights the accomplishments that we have had, not only since our last publication, but also during the last fifteen years. We thank all who have helped make this progress possible. We hope that you will be both informed and inspired by what you read and will continue to help us keep pushing forward.

**Kids with A-T have hope. All mankind has hope.**

3002 Enfield Road Austin, TX 78703 512-472-4433 [TheLongevityFoundation.org](http://TheLongevityFoundation.org)



# Research

**T**he Longevity Foundation (TLF) has virtually no overhead costs and no paid staff, allowing us to put almost every dollar into supporting research. With Bill Lynn, M.D. as our scientific advisor, we have chosen to channel most of our resources through M. D. Anderson's Science Park research facility near Smithville, Texas, through the lab of Paul Wong, Ph.D. Dr. Wong, in turn, has leveraged these resources to assemble a very impressive array of collaborating researchers around the state and other parts of the country.

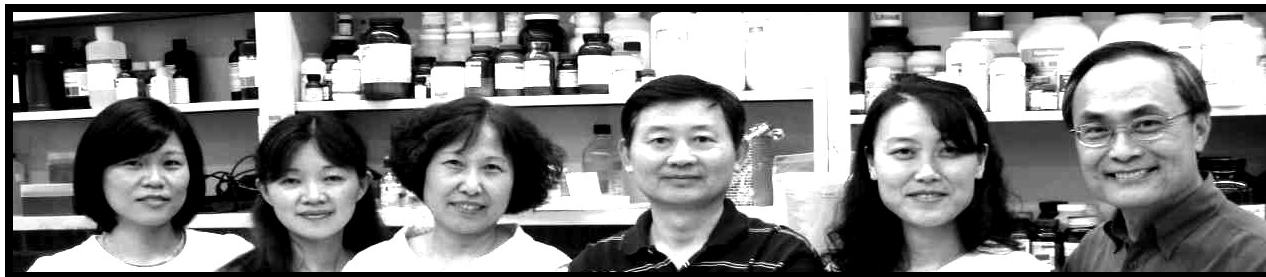
Dr. Wong's lab works mainly with two mouse models of degenerative disease, one the ts1 viral model, and the other the A-T genetic model. Both of these models cause the same basic underlying inflammatory condition that leads to most degenerative diseases. Uncontrolled inflammation causes heart disease, many cancers, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's, multiple sclerosis, lupus, arthritis, diabetes, HIV, pulmonary fibrosis, and many, many others.

*The researchers are finding ways to prevent excessive inflammation and the many degenerative diseases it causes.*

The focus of the research being funded through Dr. Wong's lab is finding an effective way to stop uncontrolled inflammation and, therefore, the damage it causes. In addition to Dr. Wong's work in his lab, we are contributing to his collaborations with Northwestern University on MS and Alzheimer's research, Texas A&M on neuro-pathology, M.D. Anderson's Bastrop facility on anti-inflammatory drug toxicity, The University of Texas on wound healing, diabetes, and breast cancer, Baylor School of Medicine on HIV, and John DiGiovanni, Ph.D. (who is also the director of M.D. Anderson - Science Park) on skin cancer caused by radiation. Dr. Wong continues to consult and collaborate with Dr. Lynn at Cato Research in North Carolina's Triangle Research Park.

Our funds provide the seed money necessary to secure preliminary data to apply for full-blown research projects that are very expensive and take a longer period of time to complete. The preliminary data provided by the pilot studies that we help fund are important to strengthen proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that are awarded on an extremely competitive basis. Partly as a result of our support, Dr. Wong was recently named in the top five percent of all NIH grantees in the nation.

Since our last report, Dr. Wong's lab has received five major grants from the NIH and has received over 10 grants from private, institutional, and academic sources. His lab has also published six papers in prestigious scientific journals, including one in the Journal of Virology that showed for the first time in history that severe neurological damage ordinarily induced by his engineered virus could be prevented by a drug developed in Russia and now being tested for introduction into the United States.

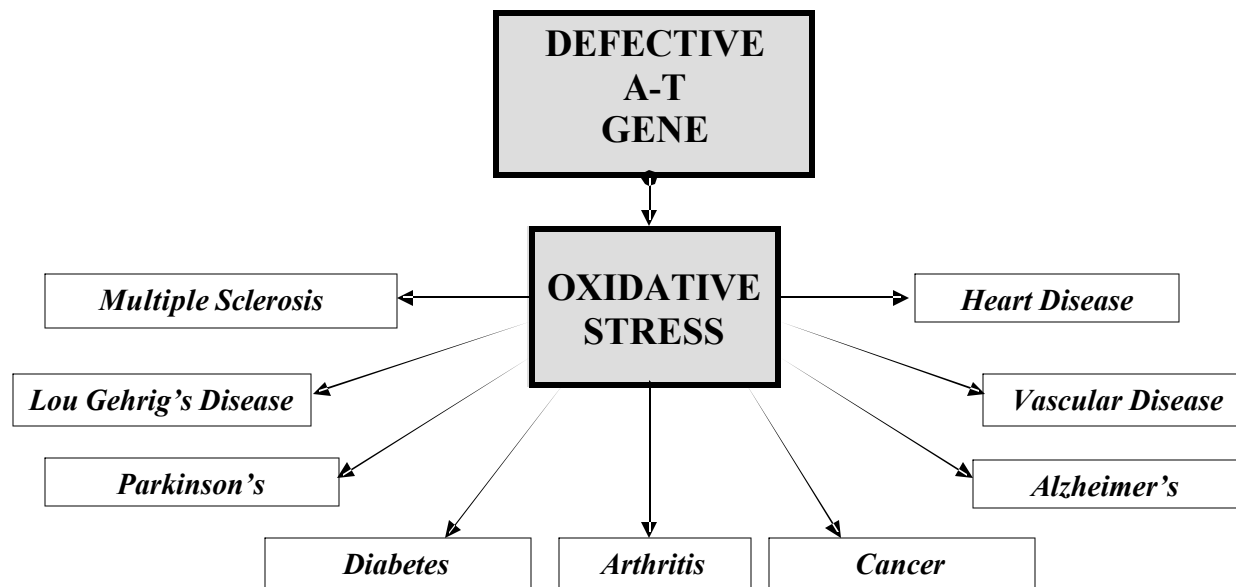


Jeesun Kim Ph.D. Xianghong Kuang M.D., Ph.D. Lifang Zhang Mingshan Yan M.D., Ph.D. Soojin Kim Paul Wong Ph.D.

# Pathway Discovered

One of Dr. Wong's lab's newest and most exciting projects is identifying the pathway that causes neuronal degeneration in the brain similar to that seen in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. His lab has discovered the pathway by comparing what happens to the mice with and without a functioning A-T gene. The A-T gene seems to be essential for producing a cascade of signals that prevents a neuronal helper cell (astrocyte) from killing itself when confronted with oxidative stress. To our knowledge, this work has never been done anywhere else in the world and holds amazing possibilities for explaining and preventing a wide range of neurological diseases.

## THE NORMAL A-T GENE HELPS PREVENT DEGENERATIVE DISEASE



*The normal A-T gene is a master gene that controls downstream signaling preventing damage to cells exposed to excessive oxidative stress, also known as inflammation. When the A-T gene is defective or some other condition is present that inhibits cells from protecting themselves from oxidative stress, degenerative diseases occur, as illustrated in the figure above. These diseases are the result of a breakdown of the nervous system, the immune system, or a combination of both.*



# Drugs, Nutrients Show Promise

**F**or the past several years, The Longevity Foundation has worked with Bach Pharma, the United States producer of a drug called GVT that is similar to the one that originated in Russia. GVT modulates inflammation and is non-toxic at normal doses. Dr. Wong's lab and its collaborators are confirming that GVT, consistent with its history of use in Russia, prevents not only neuro-degeneration, but also cancer. It's effectiveness in breast cancer prevention and wound healing are now being tested at the University of Texas at Austin.

When funds permit, we want to intensify and expand research with GVT for Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, skin cancer, and several other diseases. GVT is now being planned for inclusion in a clinical trial of A-T children to be conducted jointly by Harvard Medical School and M. D. Anderson.

One of the most exciting potential uses for GVT is to alleviate the symptoms of Arthritis. As has been reported heavily in the media, the Cox 2 inhibitors known as Celebrex and Vioxx have been taken off the market or limited in use because of their side effects on the heart. GVT, with apparently little or no toxicity, could offer a more preferable alternative. We hope to explore this application for GVT in the near future, as resources allow.

Dr. Lynn continues to identify new drugs that will control inflammation on their own and perhaps more effectively in combination with GVT. One of the most interesting of his new discoveries is a drug called AS 101 that has been experimented with mainly in Israel. Also, one of our contributors has brought to our attention a little known natural anti-oxidant called astaxanthin that may be the most effective known natural free radical scavenger. With your financial help, we look forward to supporting research into these and other promising compounds that will lead to effective remedies for a large range of diseases.



*James Heffley, Ph.D. \**

## New Video and Website

We now have a fast-paced, hard-hitting new video that clearly communicates why our research is so important and exciting. We also have a new website, which includes a link to the video. Visit us!

**VIDEO LINK:** <http://www.ruby-red-media.com/longevity.html>

We would like to express our appreciation for the volunteer work of Paul Dumas, the video's producer, Justin Rankin and White Lion, our website designers, Kittena Hannah, our web advisor, Jennifer Anderson, our graphics designer and webmaster, and Connie Cole, our newsletter editor.

***"The information we find researching A-T is going to help every person on Earth."***

*Dr. Jim Heffley as quoted in the new TLF video.*

\*Sadly, we must report the untimely death of James Heffley, Ph.D., a clinical nutritionist, a friend and supporter of The Longevity Foundation since it's beginning as the A-T Project in 1992. We greatly appreciate his help and we will miss him.

# We need your help!

**T**here is no delicate way to get the message across. We need your dollars! The simple truth is that scientific research takes money.

We hope that you will continue to find the research we support to be worthy of your contributions. The results that have come from the Foundations's grants hopefully speak for themselves. As we have always said, we are results oriented. Our funding criteria demand that the research be done in a collaborative way that will yield tangible results in the shortest time possible.

Your money supports finding ways to stop uncontrolled inflammation and thus slow the degenerative process that comes with aging.

## Tax Deductible Donations

Anyone who chooses to support charitable work, of course, has a choice. We are honored that many of you have chosen to support The Longevity Foundation. We believe that supporting our work is a sound choice for the following reasons:

- \*Our research can *help all of us* as we experience aging and degenerative disease.
- \*Our research will *help children with A-T* and *other childhood degenerative diseases*.
- \*Our research is leading toward *prevention and treatment* of many forms *of cancer*.
- \*Our research will help *find cures* for many other *deadly degenerative diseases*.
- \*Our researchers are experimenting with nutrients and drugs with *little or no toxicity*.
- \*Over *95 percent* of our budget goes directly into research.

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

**The Longevity Foundation**

**3002 Enfield Road**

**Austin, Texas 78703-3605**

**DONOR REPORT****May 2005 – August 2007**

*Listed below are financial contributors to The Longevity Foundation during the past two years. As always, we greatly appreciate your generosity! If this report contains any errors, if your name is not listed, or if you wish your gift to be recorded differently, please let us know.*

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## Thank you for your continued support!

### Special Thanks for Special Events

The Longevity Foundation would like to give a special thanks to our friends who have hosted special events benefiting TLF since our last donor report. Joyce and C.R. Pennington held their second event for TLF, complete with wonderful food and wine, great music and a silent auction at their beautiful home in Salado. Crockett and Dianna Keller donated contributions raised at numerous events at their fabulous restaurant, Keller's Riverside Store near Mason, Texas. Bill Worrell donated some of the proceeds of a silent auction at his perennial Christmas party. We would also like to thank Sam Baker, Jim Eppler, Spider Johnson, Tina and Walt Wilkins, the Mystiqueros and Bill Worrell for performing their incredible music at many of these events!



### Randall's Grocery Stores Support The Longevity Foundation

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# THE LONGEVITY FOUNDATION

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