



Foundation's Search for Children with Progeria Extends to China

A huge step in Progeria understanding and possible treatment for such children

June 2015, CHINA – The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF) has extended its global search to locate unidentified children living with Progeria to China, one of the world's largest countries with a population of over 1.35 billion. This is part of its worldwide campaign "Find the Other 150" that was first launched in 2009, with only 54 children in 30 countries living with Progeria known at that time. In less than six years, the campaign has successfully helped to find another 71 children from 13 more countries across five continents – an astonishing 131 percent increase since the start.

Progeria, also known as Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS), is a rare, fatal genetic condition characterized by the appearance of accelerated aging in children. Symptoms of Progeria include growth failure, loss of body fat and hair, aged-looking skin, stiffness of joints, hip dislocation, generalized atherosclerosis, cardiovascular (heart) disease and stroke. Statistically, experts believe there are another 150-200 children worldwide living with this rare and fatal rapid-aging condition who have yet to be diagnosed or identified. **Statistically, nearly half (76) should reside in China.**

PRF has collaborated with GLOBALHealthPR, the world's largest independent public relations group specializing in health and medical communications internationally, to lead and drive the search for more children with Progeria in the world's most populous country.

"We have discovered the gene that causes Progeria and one treatment so far," said Audrey Gordon, President and Executive Director, PRF. "We need to continue to find as many children as we can through our unrelenting global efforts, to provide them with the medical services and unique care they need. At the same time, the search will also help further our medical research to bring us closer to developing treatments, and ultimately a cure for this fatal disease."

Children living with Progeria, their families and physicians are benefitting from the various programs offered by PRF, including clinical trials that have resulted in treatments giving these children stronger hearts and longer lives.

Do you know anyone with this rare, early-aging condition? Contact PRF at www.findtheother150.org and



Lindsay, 7 years old, from the United States



Zach, 3 years old and Cam, 4 years old, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, for one of their clinical trial visits.



info@progeriaresearch.org should you know someone who has Progeria-like characteristics. Your help might give these children the chance to enter potentially life-saving clinical drug trials made possible through PRF's financial and research efforts.

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About The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF)

The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF) was established in 1999 to find the cause, treatment and cure for Progeria – a rapid aging disease that causes children to die from heart disease or stroke at an average age of 14 years. In the past 15 years, research conducted in partnership with PRF has identified the gene that causes Progeria, and the first-ever drug treatment. PRF continues to identify more children who can benefit from the programs and services that it provides while helping advance research towards treatment and cure. To learn more about Progeria and what you can do to help, please visit www.progeriaresearch.org.



**Zoey at 5 months (above)
and 3 years (below)**

About GLOBALHealthPR

GLOBALHealthPR, founded in 2001, is represented by leading, health-focused, independent public relations agencies based in 24 countries; Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the UK, the US, and Vietnam. The organization is headquartered in Washington, DC, at Spectrum. The independent nature of GLOBALHealthPR ensures accountability and commitment to clients and staffs.

Media Contact

Wang Ling
Mileage Communications (Shanghai) Co. Ltd
Tel: 86-21-62189 338
Email: wangl@mileagechina.com

