



## In the News 2003 - 2010

The historic, April 2003 announcement of the Progeria gene discovery catapulted Progeria and PRF's story into a new age of awareness and interest in this rare, intriguing disease and the extraordinary children affected by it. As the research progresses at a phenomenal pace, PRF is increasingly viewed as the "model" for medical research organizations to emulate.

The public's fascination with these special children continues to grow, with widespread coverage of Progeria children and the research that will lead to a cure. Here are highlights from just a few of the many media outlets with a keen interest in Progeria and PRF's work.



On March 8, 2010, The Dr. Oz Show aired a very special segment on Progeria with Dr. Leslie Gordon, PRF's Medical Director, Kaylee Halko and her parents, and geneticist Dr. Jeffrey Innis. Six-year-old Kaylee charmed the audience, and Leslie spoke as the expert on Progeria and its fascinating relation to aging.

January 29, 2007: PRF and the First-Ever Progeria Clinical Drug Trial are featured on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*, reaching millions worldwide.



May 2006: Looking for "gutsy go-getters whose innovative thinking, intrepid spirit and influential lives make you feel as if anything is possible," **Working Mother magazine** selected Dr. Leslie Gordon, PRF's co-founder and Medical Director and mother of 9-year-old Sam, as a 2006 Working Mother of the Year. "*Both as a mother and a scientist, I couldn't accept that there was nothing out there to help my child.*"



Hailed as an "icon", Leslie's accomplishments on behalf of children with Progeria, including Sam, have been recognized through this prestigious and much-deserved award, highlighted in the May 2006 issue.

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 **CNN Weekend** anchor Christine Romans had a *live* interview with PRF's Medical Director Dr. Leslie Gordon. The piece focused on Leslie, her son and the accomplishments of The Progeria Research Foundation.



"It's an amazing story of your little boy", says Romans... "the path this disease has led you in...you've been able to really make some headway into finding out what causes this disease and really investigate it."

*"Well, it is a rare disease," said Leslie. "But what's very interesting about Progeria is that these children -- who all die of premature heart disease at an average age of 13 years -- help researchers to investigate heart disease and also premature cellular aging...by providing funding for research, by raising dollars to help researchers, to help these children, we're also providing researchers with the ability to find out more about heart disease and aging."*

### PRF in the News – Worldwide Coverage Continues...

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On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005, **The New York Times Magazine** published a multi-page, detailed article on Progeria and PRF. The story, "Racing

with Sam," highlights the challenges faced by the Gordon and Berns family upon learning of Sam's diagnosis of Progeria. The piece also chronicles PRF's success in bringing the disease to the forefront of the news and the scientific community, leading up to the Progeria gene discovery.

*From her unique position as both mother and scientist, [Gordon] has assembled a powerful group of collaborators to push this rare disease to the front of the research agenda... "Everyone talks about how fast we're going," Gordon said, "but the truth is, we're not going fast enough."*

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TIME magazine featured PRF Co-founder and Medical Director Leslie Gordon and her husband Scott Berns in the May 10, 2004 issue. The article, entitled "Savior Parents," featured three inspirational stories of parents whose children had been diagnosed with a genetic disease. Upon hearing the news, the parents profiled in the article made significant life changes in order to dedicate themselves to rising above their child's disease.

*"There was nothing out there [on Progeria], says Gordon... I was surprised because as a doctor, you train, you train, and when you get out there you realize there are holes."...Gordon, in just over five years, has started a tissue bank and lured top scientists into studying her son's disease."*

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On November 17, 2003, the *New York Times* published a special "Giving" issue dedicated to parents of children with rare diseases. They shared their stories on overcoming grief and taking action to give hope to themselves, their children and others.

*"We would love to have just tagged onto another group that was trying to help these children," Dr. Gordon said. "But there wasn't one. ...we were told, 'Well, it's a rare disease, there's no funding for it, no one knows about it.' So we said, 'Fine, we'll create a foundation.'"*

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On October 16, 2003, ABC's "Primetime Live" retraced the journey of Dr. Leslie Gordon and Dr. Scott Berns as they initiated research and support for their son's disease – Progeria. The report also focused on the discovery of the genetic mutation that causes Progeria, and the implications of the findings for mankind.

*"The discovery could lead to drugs to combat the aging process itself...Sam has helped bring about major discoveries about Progeria and about life."*

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In the May 5, 2003 issue of *People* magazine, Dr. Leslie Gordon and Dr. Scott Berns discussed their role in transforming Progeria from a relatively unknown disease to a prominent field for researchers.