



foundation of

molecular medicine

THE POWER TO CURE

## Foundation of Molecular Medicine:

### Why we exist and how we are different

Mitochondrial disorders are complex inherited disorders that affect the body's ability to adequately produce energy. These disorders affect at least 1 in 5,000 individuals and are difficult to diagnose. Drs. Shoffner & Hyland have been working with mitochondrial diseases and other types of inherited diseases for over 20 years both from a clinical perspective and a research perspective.

Working with these diseases is by no means simple. In order to create the proper clinical environment for the diagnosis and management of patients, Drs Shoffner & Hyland founded Medical Neurogenetics, LLC, which has a very large laboratory structure (about 15, 000 square feet with PhD, Masters and Bachelors level staff). Medical Neurogenetics is how they are able to interact with patients and their healthcare providers for diagnosis and treatment.

Research is an entirely different issue. Their research work extends over the past 20 years. In order to hasten the pace of research for the treatment of mitochondrial diseases, they realized that a scientific organization that is non-profit (tax exempt) needed to be created. The Foundation of Molecular Medicine is a scientific and medical research organization. As a nonprofit organization, it is not owned by any individual or individuals but is publicly held. Consequently, donor contributions are tax exempt.

***We are committed to mitochondrial disease treatment:  
Funding is for research protocols designed to treat mitochondrial disease patients or for research protocols that are likely to lead to treatment.***

The structure of the foundation is such that administrative overhead is very low (about 5%). This is far less than the typical university setting that can have indirect cost rates exceeding 50%! While most foundations/universities accept unrestricted donations, the Foundation of Molecular Medicine is different in that funds are restricted in their use. This means that a group or board determines what the funding is used for. The Foundation of Molecular Medicine funding is for research protocols designed to treat mitochondrial disease patients or for research protocols that are likely to lead to treatment. A small percentage of funding is used for educational conferences for families to discuss new advancements and goals.

*On behalf of the many children and families who face the challenges of these disorders,  
please accept our appreciation for considering supporting the efforts of the Foundation of Molecular Medicine.*

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