



The International 22q11.2 Foundation Inc.

Hi,

I was asked to consider being Medical Director of the 22q Foundation when I had just finished my intern year in pediatrics at Duke at the joint Atlanta 22q11 conference in 2004. At that time the Foundation was in its infancy. It was a great honor for me at my stage of medical training, and this had a lot to do with my being a parent of a son with 22q11 deletion and somehow surviving medical school and my intern year I believe! As medical director I developed the Medical Expert panel (knowing I would need to have a team with experience behind me!), and advocated with the Victory Junction Hole-in-the-Wall Gang camp in Victory Junction to develop a Genetics camp, served as camp doctor for genetics, and worked with the foundation to help fund travel for about 5 campers with 22q11 deletion to go there every year.

Later I was given the privilege of serving on the Board of the Foundation, and later was president (2007-2010). These were exciting times when we greatly increased our outreach, started working with Dragonfly Forest to start a 22q11 camp, and increased outreach to pediatricians, outreach to other 22q11 experts to develop the health care guidelines for 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, which were published in 2011. After moving from Philadelphia I have continued on the Medical Advisory Board. It is amazing to me how much is being done by the foundation that has only continued to grow in outreach (22q at the Zoo, which we enjoy at a farm outside Boston), support of the international meetings, and loads of fundraising.

I wish the foundation well on your exciting 15-year anniversary!

Paula Goldenberg, MD