

# The Progeria Research Foundation Timeline

## Celebrate With PRF... Our History, Our Future

**1999...**

**March 1999:**  
The Progeria Research Foundation is incorporated as a non-profit organization in Massachusetts, and holds its first board meeting June 1999.

**August 1999:**  
PRF awards its first research grant.



**November 1999:**  
PRF launches its web site, a comprehensive resource of information on Progeria for researchers, families of children with Progeria and their physicians, and the general public. The 270-page site is now visited by an average of 15,000 people per month, from around the globe:  
[www.progeriaresearch.org](http://www.progeriaresearch.org)



**...2000...**

**May 2000:**  
Dr. Leslie Gordon's research on Progeria is featured in *Scientific American's* "The Quest to Beat Aging."

**July 2000:**  
PRF Board Member Rabbi Harold Kushner testifies before the House Committee on Appropriation, Labor, Health and Human Services in Washington, DC and appeals for congressional action to help children with Progeria.

**October 17, 2000:**  
President Clinton signs the Children's Health Act 2000 into law. PRF is instrumental in securing language in the act that mandates activity by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to report on its plan for supporting children with Progeria. As a direct result, PRF representatives meet with NIH officials the next month. The meeting concludes with a commitment to hold a joint scientific workshop, which was highly successful and the first of five that PRF has held to date.

**...2001...**

**March 24, 2001:**  
The Friends of PRF hold "A Night of Wonder", raising an astounding \$160,000 for research. This is now PRF's signature special event fundraiser.

**November 2001:**  
PRF and NIH hold an historic, first-ever workshop in Bethesda, MD, bringing together leading researchers interested in Progeria.

**...2002...**

**January 2002:**  
The PRF Genetics Consortium is formed. The goal of this group is to find the gene for Progeria, which was accomplished less than ten months later.

**March 2002:**  
PRF launches the Cell & Tissue Bank at Rhode Island Hospital and Rutgers University Cell & DNA Repository, so that researchers have the biological tools necessary to further Progeria research. The Cell Bank now holds an impressive 104 lines.

**April 2002:**  
Thanks to the collaborative efforts between PRF and NIH, NIH announces first-ever funding for Progeria research.

**September 2002:**  
PRF's 1st annual International Race for Research is held in Peabody, MA. This signature event has now extended to several other states.

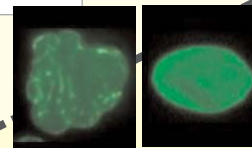
**October 10, 2002:**  
Using cells from the PRF Cell & Tissue Bank, PRF Genetics Consortium members Dr. Maria Eriksson and Dr. Francis Collins lead the discovery of the Progeria gene.

**November 2002:**  
The PRF Medical & Research Database is launched at Brown University Center for Gerontology, to help us understand more about the basis of Progeria and enable us to provide treatment recommendations. PRF receives a 2-year, \$200,000 NIH grant in June 2003 for the Database.

**...2003...**

**April 16, 2003:**  
Seven members of the PRF Genetics consortium publish the Progeria gene discovery in the journal *Nature*. Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, is senior author.

*nature*



**June 2003:**  
In the wake of the gene discovery, the PRF Diagnostics program begins. With a definitive way to diagnose children, earlier diagnosis, fewer misdiagnoses and early medical intervention ensure a better quality of life for the children.

**July 2003:**  
PRF once again brings scientists and clinicians together to share their expertise in a second Progeria scientific workshop. Moving from gene discovery to treatment is the main topic.

**...2004...**

**April 2004:**  
PRF and NIH co-host a workshop to explore the potential for stem cell transplantation as a direction for research in Progeria.



**August 2004:**  
PRF awards its tenth research grant, which includes funding for the creation of a Progeria mouse model.

**September 2004:**  
PRF and NIH embark on a joint first-ever natural history study for children with Progeria. Children travel to the NIH from five countries for these clinical studies.

**...2005...**

**August-September 2005:**  
PRF-funded and co-authored laboratory studies are published on a potential new drug treatment for Progeria called "FTIs". These groundbreaking studies are the first to support FTI drug treatment for Progeria.

**November 2005:**  
A record 96 scientists from nine countries come together for PRF's fourth scientific workshop in Boston, MA.

**...2006...**

**June 2006:**  
PRF launches a public service announcement (PSA) campaign featuring the recognizable voices of long-time PRF supporters Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen. The PSA received endorsement by the Ad Council and aired on the Astrovision is NYC's Times Square in November 2006.

**February/July 2006:**  
PRF-funded studies find that FTIs - the potential new drug treatment - prevent some signs of disease in Progeria mice. These and other studies, along with data analyzed from the PRF Medical & Research Database, pave the way for a clinical drug trial for the children.

**July 2006:**  
PRF launches its \$2 million Clinical Drug Trial Campaign to fund this historic trial.

**PEDIATRICS**



With your help, we WILL fund the clinical drug trial.

**...2007...**

**April 2007:**  
Children's Hospital Boston approves the first-ever PRF-funded Progeria Clinical Drug Trial.

As of November 2007, PRF has raised \$1.4 million of the \$2 million needed to fund this drug trial.

**May-October 2007:**  
Children with Progeria from 15 countries come to Boston and enroll in the FTI Clinical Trial.

**September 2007:**  
Clinical trial parameters are featured in two articles in the journal *Pediatrics*. Meanwhile, PRF awards its 23rd research grant. PRF's grant funding has allowed innovative research in Progeria to thrive, and has helped Progeria scientific publications increase by over 500% since PRF was founded.

**November 2007:**  
The 4th Night of Wonder gala, U Drive the CURE! is held with hundreds attending. This major, signature event has helped keep all of PRF's programs running at full speed!



For the first time, we have in front of us a possible treatment for children with Progeria. We have some so far in just eight years, but there are still many challenges ahead. With your support, **we WILL find the cure for children with Progeria.**