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CHI ANNOUNCES NEW HIHA Research Fund

Glen Ridge, NJ, February 20, 2019 – Congenital Hyperinsulinism International (CHI) is thrilled to announce it will be offering a pilot research grant to generate new insights into hyperinsulinism hyperammonemia (HIHA, also called GDH-HI), with the goal of adding to a body of knowledge leading to new and better treatments, and a cure, one day.

“CHI is hoping researchers from all over the world who are passionate about a brighter future for people born with HIHA are inspired to apply for this grant.”

- Randy Hart, HIHA Parent and Board Member, Congenital Hyperinsulinism International

In May, CHI will award the one-year grant. Funding of \$70,000 will be available for an innovative, preclinical, or clinical study that has the potential to lead to: (1) a better HIHA treatment; (2) a cure for HIHA; or (3) a quality of life improvement for those affected by HIHA.

HIHA is the second most common form of HI. It is caused by a defective GDH (glutamate dehydrogenase) gene. GDH is an enzyme which plays an important role in amino acid metabolism. People with HIHA secrete too much insulin which causes hypoglycemia, especially after a protein rich intake. Those with HIHA also have high ammonia levels in their blood, and often have epilepsy and other neurological issues that are thought to stem from the change in the GDH gene. The only currently available treatment for HIHA helps in the management of hypoglycemia but leaves the high ammonia levels untreated.

A Request for Applications (RFA) will be issued on February 25, 2019. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of experts in the field, and the award will be announced on May 20, 2019. This funding opportunity is open to independent researchers, tenure-track faculty, non-tenure-track faculty or staff, or an equivalent level at a research institution or at a biotechnology/ pharmaceutical company.

CHI is the leading HI patient advocate dedicated to supporting children and adults born with HI. Founded in 2005 by parents of children with HI, the 501(c)3 organization works to support research leading to better treatments and a cure for the rare disease. The nonprofit raises awareness of the dangers of prolonged hypoglycemia and supports families living with the disease. U.S. donations to CHI are tax deductible. This grant was made possible by generous donors to CHI.