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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Soft Bones Announces the 2022 Recipient of Hypophosphatasia Research Grant
*Annual Hypophosphatasia Research Grant Awarded to University of Michigan
Researcher Nan Hatch, DMD, PhD*

BOONTON, New Jersey, Nov. 3, 2022 – Soft Bones Inc., an organization committed to bringing forward advancements and education to those affected by hypophosphatasia (HPP), is pleased to award its 2022 research grant to Nan Hatch, DMD, PhD, an associate professor of dentistry at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. The \$25,000 grant will support Dr. Hatch’s studies to establish essential roles for tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase (TNAP) in muscles and determine how TNAP modulates muscle function.

"The Soft Bones Scientific Advisory Board was delighted this year to review, once again, highly competitive grants aimed to advance scientific work to help patients with hypophosphatasia, and that the proposal from Nan Hatch, DMD PhD, University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, would receive 1-year of generous support from the Soft Bones Foundation," said Dr. Michael P. Whyte, chairman of the Soft Bones Scientific Advisory Board.

Dr. Hatch’s previous findings led her to question if cell cycle and/or energetic abnormalities might also be relevant to the muscle weakness and fatigue found in some individuals with HPP.

"This grant will provide me with the resources to investigate muscle development and function in HPP, which is a new line of research for us. I previously focused on the role of TNAP, the enzyme that is deficient in hypophosphatasia, on bone cells," said Dr. Hatch. "This opens a new avenue for me to determine how TNAP deficiency leads to muscle weakness and fatigue, which are prominent features of hypophosphatasia for some individuals."

Soft Bones funds research to better understand HPP with the goal of finding a cure and has awarded over \$475,000 in research grants since 2014. The organization supports HPP investigators through annual grants such as the Maher Family Annual Hypophosphatasia Research Grant. More information about hypophosphatasia as well as existing and ongoing research can be found at www.SoftBones.org.

About Hypophosphatasia: Hypophosphatasia (HPP) is an inherited, metabolic (chemical) bone disease of broad-ranging severity that causes life-threatening complications in approximately one per 100,000 births. Depending on the severity of the skeletal disease, there can be deformity of the limbs and chest, pneumonia, and recurrent fractures. While there is currently no cure for hypophosphatasia, medical and supportive treatment is directed towards preventing or correcting its signs, symptoms, and complications.

About Soft Bones, Inc.: Soft Bones, the US Hypophosphatasia Foundation, is a patient advocacy group founded in 2009 to provide information and to establish a forum to educate, empower, and connect patients living with hypophosphatasia, their families, and caregivers. The Foundation also promotes research of rare bone disease through awareness and fundraising efforts.

Related Links:

<http://www.SoftBones.org>