



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Soft Bones Announces an Ohio State University Researcher as the 2021 Winner of Maher Family Grant**

*9th Annual Grant Awarded to Fatma F. Mohamed, PhD*

Boonton, N.J., January 10, 2022 – Soft Bones Inc., an organization committed to bringing forward advancements and education to those affected by hypophosphatasia (HPP), is pleased to award its 9th Maher Family Grant to Fatma F. Mohamed, PhD, a Postdoctoral Scholar in the laboratory of Dr. Brian Foster at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. The \$25,000 grant will support Dr. Mohamed’s studies to explore whether the nervous system adds to the disease mechanisms of bone and tooth defects encountered in HPP, a rare and sometimes life-threatening inherited (genetic) disorder.

Dr. Mohamed's research will investigate the nervous system using new mouse models of HPP to uncover the roles it might have in the formation, maintenance, and repair of dental and skeletal tissues. “This grant will open a new avenue for further investigation on HPP’s influence on the nervous system and allow for evaluation of enzyme replacement efficacy in such specific contexts,” said Dr. Mohamed. “With new models and a better understanding of HPP, we can generate new ideas; I am excited to get started.”

The Soft Bones Scientific Advisory Board congratulates Fatma F. Mohamed PhD as the 9th recipient of the Soft Bones foundation’s Maher Family Grant (2021-2022). Dr. Michael P. Whyte, Chairman, reported their unanimous endorsement for Dr. Mohamed's project.

Soft Bones funds research to better understand HPP with the goal of finding a cure and has awarded over \$450,000 in research grants since 2014. The organization supports HPP investigators through annual grants such as the Annual Maher Family Grant. More information about hypophosphatasia and existing and ongoing research can be found at [www.SoftBones.org](http://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 was 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. Under the leadership of Deborah Nettune Fowler, Soft Bones has raised awareness around the world, including advocating for the disease to receive the policy recognition and research funding it deserves, by bringing attention to affected babies, children, and adults.*

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Related Links

<http://www.SoftBones.org>

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