

The 12th Annual Hypophosphatasia Research Grant Awarded to Valeria Guglielmi, Ph.D., a Researcher at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

BOONTON, N.J., Jan. 9, 2025 — Soft Bones, Inc., an organization committed to bringing forward advancements and education to those affected by hypophosphatasia (HPP), is pleased to award its 2024 research grant to Dr. Guglielmi, a postdoctoral associate. The \$25,000 grant will support her studies to determine what role tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase might have in B-cell biology and how these cells, important for immune functions, might be affected in hypophosphatasia.

“Among these fine applications, we were most intrigued by this proposal,” said Dr. Michael P. Whyte, chairman of the Soft Bones Scientific Advisory Board.

“Thanks to this grant, we will explore a new research direction that will uncover the role of tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase in B-cell biology and unveil how changes in B-cells could contribute to immune response alterations in HPP patients. I am excited to contribute to advancing our understanding of HPP, with the ultimate goal of benefiting patients and enhancing their quality of life,” Dr. Guglielmi said. “I am grateful to the Soft Bones Foundation and the selection committee for believing in the potential of my work.”

Soft Bones funds research to understand HPP and find a cure. The foundation has awarded over \$500,000 in research grants since 2014, supporting HPP investigators through the Maher Family Annual Hypophosphatasia Research Grant. More information about HPP as well as existing and ongoing research can be found at www.SoftBones.org.

About Hypophosphatasia

HPP is an inherited, metabolic (chemical) bone disease of remarkably broad-ranging severity. It can cause life-threatening complications in approximately one per 100,000 births. There can be limb and chest deformity and fractures that lead to pneumonia. While currently there is no cure for HPP, 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. Driven by patient and caregiver insights, Soft Bones Inc., inspires and galvanizes collective action to foster greater awareness, improve diagnosis, accelerate innovative research and treatments and ultimately improve care for those affected by HPP.

Related Links:

<http://www.SoftBones.org>

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