**January 30th, 2017, For Immediate Release**

Press Release Contact:

Ashlee Cabrera, Director of Development and Communications

The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders

817-874-9609

ashlee@thegfpd.org

***The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders Awards and Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation award $120,000 in Research Grants in Effort to Accelerate Treatment Options for Rare Disease***

The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders (GFPD) and the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation (WMRF) announce $120,000 in grants to two research labs. The grants include funding to address neurodegeneration and vision loss in Peroxisomal Biogenesis Disorder-Zellweger Spectrum Disorder (PBD-ZSD), as well as a project studying the drugs diosmetin and betaine, and their efficacy in increasing peroxisome function.

“Our goal is to accelerate treatments and someday find a cure for peroxisomal disorders. These grants will enable research labs to continue their fight to understand peroxisome disorders, and to lay the foundation for a better quality of life for patients with PBD-ZSD,” said GFPD Executive Director Melissa Bryce Gamble.

Dr. Joseph Hacia of the University of Southern California was awarded $75,000 for his project entitled, “Resources to Address Neurodegeneration and Vision Loss in PBD-ZSD.” Dr. Hacia will research the development of cell-based models of disease as a first step towards a long-term goal of screening for small molecules to enhance myelination in PBD-ZSD. Additionally, his lab will work to produce cell culture models with PEX1 mutations to assist in ongoing retinal gene therapy projects.

Dr. Nancy Braverman of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Center, in Montreal, Canada, was awarded $45,318 for her project “Diosmetin and Betaine Therapy for PEX1-G843D Peroxisome Biogenesis Disorders.” Dr. Braverman will be embarking on a one year intensive project to define optimal dose and route of administration of diosmetin and betaine, and ultimately, performing a preclinical well trial on animal models.

The grant cycle was a joint project between the Scientific Initiatives Committee of the GFPD and the WMRF.

“The GFPD is glad to have such strong research partners,” said Dennis Carlson, Chair of the GFPD Scientific Initiatives Committee.  “We look forward to continued support of meaningful science for our families.”

“Drs. Braverman and Hacia are incredible leaders in the fight against PBD. The WMRF is proud to support them as we work towards a cure. It is our hope that our daughter Wynne’s legacy will be furthering the search for a cure,” said Josh Mateffy, President of the WMRF.

*About the Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders*

Headquartered in Tulsa, OK, The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders (GFPD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity committed to funding research to develop a greater understanding of Peroxisome biogenesis disorders (PBD), including Zellweger spectrum disorders (ZSD) and related single-enzyme disorders. PBD-ZSD is an extremely rare genetic disorder that is generally terminal in childhood. Additionally, the GFPD organizes family support and informational conferences, connects families through online support groups, and provides an equipment exchange program. GPFD also shares objective and credible information to families and caregivers of patients with PBD and is a voice in the public arena for patients affected by the disorders.

*About the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation*

Caiti and Josh Mateffy established the Wynne Mateffy Research Foundation (WMRF) in 2015 to create a legacy of helping others for their daughter Wynne. Wynne, was diagnosed with PBD in March 2015 at 3 months of age. Wynne passed away in June of 2016 just short of 1.5 years old. She stole many hearts and touched many lives in her brief time on earth and she continues to work her magic through her foundation.  For more information about the WMRF, please visit: [www.wmrf.org](http://www.wmrf.org)