

Dear IRSF Friends and Families,

Don't miss early registration (April 15) for the 24th annual "*Together We Are Better*" conference **May 23-26, 2008** in **Chicago**. Hosted downtown at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel, you will have the opportunity to learn all you ever wanted to know about Rett Syndrome. Where world-class speakers match the world-class location, this one-of-it's-kind national conference is **a must for parents, physicians, teachers, and therapists of all children and adults with RTT**. With over 30 educational sessions to choose from, a keynote address by Bill Keegan, author of Closure: The Untold Story of the Ground Zero Recovery Mission and Rett syndrome parent, exhibitor displays, Bookstore, Silent Auction, and Tribute Dinner, there is something to learn, something to look at, or someone to talk to every minute of this fast-paced weekend.

If you are new to the diagnosis, we have "Rett Syndrome 101" to break it down for you. Want to understand more about common medical issues? Hear all about it from top-ranking physicians **Drs Alan Percy, Dan Glaze** and **Kathleen Motil** who have collectively seen more girls and women with Rett syndrome than any other physician team in the world. You will learn the importance of working together with your clinicians to best anticipate and mitigate these common health concerns.

Want to get together and talk about overcoming common misunderstandings about education, communication and literacy in Rett syndrome? Attend **Susan Norwell's** and other's sessions on learning and how to infuse the classroom with inspiring, motivating, and practical communication ideas and techniques. Hands-on demonstrations in sessions and at exhibits will allow you to try out different types of technology with advice from the experts.

For all of our families, we are offering sessions exploring life's planning choices: different types of school programs, the legality of the IEP, what to consider for day programs after age 21, and considerations and concerns for future financial and legal planning.

And for all who attend, hear research updates covering genetics, translational research and future horizons, featuring excellent, down-to-earth speaker-scientists **Drs. Carolyn Schanen, Kathleen Motil, Jeffrey Neul** and more. *Together we will* create the day of new treatments and the cure for Rett syndrome.

While learning and expanding your views on what's possible for your child, also take the time to enjoy a get-away weekend. Relax and recharge your batteries. Get out for an evening of your making Saturday night. Socialize and network with other families at the Welcome reception, Crackerbarrels, mealtimes, and in-between sessions. Time-proven parent-tested advice is often the best take-away treasure.

Be sure to attend the Sunday night **Tribute Dinner**, a very special evening where we recognize the heroes amongst us, honor our children, and enjoy some very special entertainment. Don't forget to bring something for the Silent Auction. Between the **Bookstore** and **Silent Auction**, you will be sure to find a special something for those back home.

So if you're in need of answers, just want to hear the latest, or in the mood to make new friendships or renew some old ones, join us May 23-26 in Chicago. IRSF Scholarships are available, and there are many local resources such as ARC and various service groups that can help you make it happen. You can't afford not to come! Program and registration form can be found on the website or by calling 1.800.818.RETT.

Register now and make your hotel reservations at the Fairmont Hotel soon, because "**Together We Are Better**"!

Sincerely,

Paige Nues
Director of Family Support