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International Rett Syndrome Foundation Appoints New Board Member

CINCINNATI, OH – July 27, 2021 – The International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF) is honored to announce that Leslie Mehta has been appointed to its board of directors.

“Leslie Mehta is a strong voice for vulnerable groups and those with disabilities,” shared Melissa Kennedy, IRSF Executive Director. “Her passion and legal expertise are an important addition to our board as we relentlessly pursue a cure for Rett, advance an aggressive advocacy agenda aimed at securing research, and provide enhanced resources to families who have a loved one with Rett.”

Mehta, an attorney and Chief of Staff and Counsel to the CEO at the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority, has nearly two decades of legal experience. In her professional career, she has fought for the rights of women, people of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community, among others. She holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. Leslie's daughter Brooke was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome in 2017. In 2020, Leslie launched www.prettybrooke.com, an initiative dedicated to research, education, grief, and advocacy for those with disabilities and their families. Using videos, she interviews politicians, executives, thought leaders, and parents about disability issues.

On March 25, 2021, 5-year-old Brooke lost her battle with Rett syndrome. Leslie, her husband Tarun, and daughter Blair live in the suburbs of Richmond, Virginia. As part of Brooke's legacy, Leslie and Tarun continue to fight for others with Rett syndrome.

Mehta joins IRSF's robust board filled with advocates and industry leaders in medicine, finance, business, biotech, marketing, and fundraising—all serving together to advance our two-pronged mission: to accelerate full spectrum research to cure Rett syndrome and empower families with information, knowledge, and connectivity.

Rett syndrome is a rare disease caused by a genetic mutation that affects 1 in 10,000 females and even fewer males. There is no current treatment or cure, which is why IRSF is committed to supporting unparalleled research and dedicated to equipping families living with the effects of Rett syndrome every day.

Mehta's addition to the board adds a powerful expertise and perspective. "Now more than ever, IRSF is laser focused on funding critical research that will lead to a cure. Much of our funding comes from private donations and foundations, and we have already begun the process of securing critical government grants so that we can move faster and explore different clinical approaches. Mehta's experience is critical to navigating the changing landscape of how we can increase this funding," shares Kennedy.

"We're excited about what our board can accomplish as they stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the fight against Rett. Rett doesn't stop and neither do we."

About International Rett Syndrome Foundation As the leading Rett syndrome research and advocacy organization, the International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF) builds upon our nearly 40-year commitment to breakthrough discoveries and life-changing advancements in research toward a cure while supporting families affected by Rett syndrome. Through our legacy foundation pioneers, we have invested over \$51M in research leading to identifying Rett syndrome's cause, proving Rett syndrome is reversible in mice and developing multiple clinical trials for Rett syndrome. We fight for families living with Rett syndrome and a world without it. Learn more at www.rettsyndrome.org.

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