



About the National Vitiligo Foundation

Foundation History

The National Vitiligo Foundation was conceived in September 1985 by Allen Locklin, a vitiligo patient who became frustrated with the lack of information for vitiligo patients, to fund research in pursuit of a cure for the disease. The foundation operated out of Tyler, Texas until 2006 when Dr. Raymond Boissy, Ph.D. assumed the presidency and moved the foundation to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Since its inception, the foundation has raised more than \$1.5 million in research. Donations to the foundation are made primarily by its patient members.

National Vitiligo Foundation Mission

The National Vitiligo Foundation is devoted to increasing public awareness of the disease; advocating for patients with the disease; and supporting basic scientific and clinical research on the disease.

Foundation Objectives

- To locate, inform and counsel vitiligo patients and their families
- To increase public awareness and concern for the vitiligo patient
- To broaden the concern for the patient within the medical community
- To encourage, promote and fund increased scientific and clinical research on the cause, treatment and ultimate cure of vitiligo

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Raymond E. Boissy, Ph.D.

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National Vitiligo Foundation Research Advancements

During its 24 year history, the National Vitiligo Foundation has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in research grants to 21 different investigators at 18 various academic institutes. These research projects have focused on the cause of the selective melanocyte destruction by the immune system, environmental toxins and/or genes. In addition, several clinical studies and investigations of animal models for vitiligo have also been supported by the foundation grants. Of significance, several of the recipients of these grants have gone on to developed research programs that have subsequently achieved larger grant funds from the National Institutes of Health to further examine the cause, treatment and ultimate cure of vitiligo.