

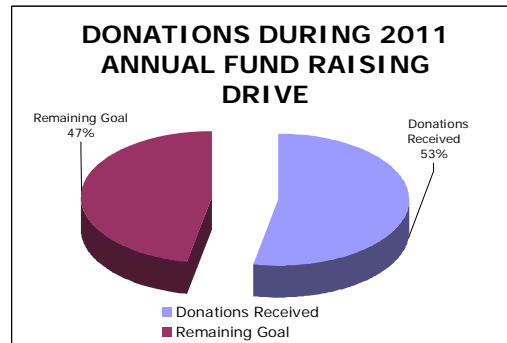


Greetings NVF Member:

April 2011

The National Vitiligo Foundation (NVF) hopes are ready for spring!! As you know our goal is to [1] support research on Vitiligo, [1] advocate for people with Vitiligo, and [3] increase awareness of Vitiligo worldwide. Towards those efforts we have the following new exciting information.

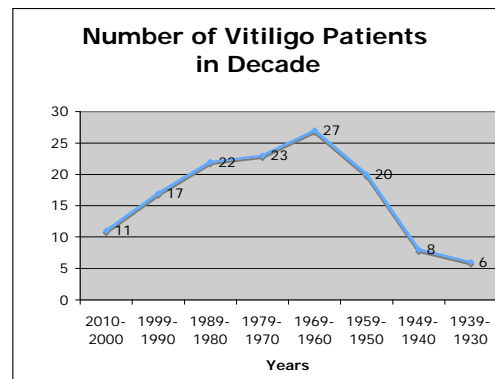
**FOUNDATION NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!:** I would first like to thank the membership for your overwhelming response to our Annual Fund Raising Drive that began at the first of the year. We sent out our Annual Report to all members with a request to update contact and email addresses and a significant number of members returned the donation envelopes. To date we have reached over 50% our fund raising goal of \$36,000!! This is very encouraging for the staff at NVF as we try to implement our advocacy for our members, the Vitiligo community and the clinicians and scientists trying to find better therapies and a cure. **THANK YOU**



**MEMBER NEWS:** One great advantages of the NVF is connecting members in our community so they can help on another. A few months ago one of our members, Brendan Muha, a high school student doing research on Vitiligo for his science fair, contacted the National Vitiligo Foundation for assistance. His project was to correlate the occurrence of Vitiligo with various personal traits. This was actually a novel idea and his questionnaire was sent out to other NVF members. His questionnaire contained the following

1. What age are you?
2. What color hair do you have?
3. What color eyes do you have?
4. Are you left handed or right handed?
5. When did you develop vitiligo?

Brendon received a tremendous response from our membership and as a result he stated "The science fair was amazing I earned first place and qualified for the regional science fair. However, the research did not show any overwhelmingly obvious results. Vitiligo occurs equally among all patients no matter gene characteristics." I personally would like to thank Brendan for his pursuing this interesting project and bring awareness of Vitiligo to his school. I also like to thank the NVF members who sent in the questionnaire and provided information and support for Brendan. Below are his **ABSTRACT & CONCLUSIONS.**



**ABSTRACT:** Patients with vitiligo usually don't understand why they have contracted the disease. They don't know what genetics or traits have played a role. Generally, vitiligo is passed on from one generation to the next; however, it is sometimes contracted out of what seems to be nothing. This is considered a scientific anomaly. After this experiment, we still may not know the direct traits involved in vitiligo. We hope that we will be able to see the certain traits involved in vitiligo. Vitiligo is a disease that causes the loss of pigmentation and the addition of white spots to the skin. Vitiligo occurs all over the world in one percent of the human race. Yet, in a country like India vitiligo is heavily researched because it has similar characteristics to those of leprosy. Individuals are cast out of society and are plagued with Vitiligo for their entire life. It has no cure and needs more research. Although Vitiligo occurs equally in the male and female sexes traits are still expected to play a role. The traits tested are the age of the candidate, the color hair, the color eyes, left, or right handed, and when vitiligo was developed. Data was received from the National Vitiligo Foundation and was used in this retrospective study. It was observed and specific data was gathered. The information we gathered are viewed on bar graphs, pie charts, and line graphs for specific data. We hope to prove our hypothesis correct in that we will conclude that vitiligo is more apparent in certain traits.

**CONCLUSION:** The study yielded many results. In hair color, left and right-handedness the incidence of each matched that of the general population. However, in eye color the incidence of blue and green eyes among vitiligo patients was much greater among the vitiligo patients. Green and blue eyes contain less melanin, which produces pigment, or eye color. It is apparent there is a correlation between persons with vitiligo and persons with lighter eye color. Perhaps further study is warranted to determine whether eye color can predict this pigment disorder in the general population.

**CLINICAL & RESEARCH NEWS:** Recently published was a review article for the medical and scientific community on the current understanding of Vitiligo authored by James J. Nordlund (NVF Board Member) and Raymond E. Boissy (NVF President). Although this was primarily writing for medical professionals, I have included it as an attachment to this email message for those interested.



These new information and programs highlight the great strides the NVF has accomplished in the past few months. These accomplishments have been successful in part by your generous and sustained support & contributions. I personally wish to thank you.

Sincerely,

President  
National Vitiligo Foundation