Global Genes™ is proud to partner with Student Advocates for Neglected Diseases (STAND) to present the third David R. Cox Prize for Rare Compassion, an essay contest that connects medical students with the rare disease community with the goal of developing understanding and compassion for challenges and lifestyles that patients diagnosed with a rare disorder are faced with.

Medical professionals often do not encounter or recognize a patient with one of the nearly **7,000 identified rare diseases**; although, it is estimated that 35 million people in U.S., or 1 in 10, are living with a rare condition. According to the National Institutes of Health, a rare disease is defined as a disease that affects less than 200,000 people in the United States.

Contest Summary

This essay contest helps facilitate the connection between medical students and those living with a rare disease. Interested medical students are matched with either a patient or family affected by a rare disease.

Prize Amounts

First Place	$1,500
Second Place	$1,000
Third Place	$500

Eligibility

1. Medical students in their 1st and 2nd year of study.
2. Attending medical school in the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom.

Key Dates

Tuesday, February 22, 2016	Matching Opens *Medical Students can request to be matched with a rare disease family.*
Wednesday, June 1, 2016	Essay Submission Opens
Monday, August 1, 2016	Essay Submission Deadline
Friday, September 9, 2016	Winners Notified
Friday, September 23, 2016	Winners Publicly Announced *Participants are welcome to attend the RARE Patient Advocacy Summit where the announcement will be made (Huntington Beach, CA).*

Matching Process

Global Genes™ offers to match medical students with patients based on geographic distance (in most cases within 40 miles from the medical student). The medical student will build a relationship with the patient/family to better understand the challenges and day-to-day experiences that these individuals have.

If a medical student wishes to be matched with a rare patient, medical students can request a t match at https://globalgenes.org/coxprize_medstudentrequest. Medical students may also utilize local resources through their medical schools to find rare families. Patient/Student relationship must have begun no earlier than June 1, 2015 (12 months from opening of submission period).

Essay Guidelines

- Patient relationship must have been begun within the past 12 months (from date of essay entry)
- 2,500 word max
- English-language submissions only
- Must follow HIPAA requirements

Submission Guidelines

- Submitted essay must include no identifying information on author
- Submit in PDF format with the following filename:
  AuthorFirstName_ LastName_CoxPrize_2016
- Must be submitted by August 1, 2016 at 11:59 pm PST at
  https://globalgenes.org/cox-prize-submission-form/
  To view last year's winning essays, please click here.

Essay content should include one or more of the following:

1. Share reflections on the experience
2. Convey the scope and significance of the disease's effect on the patient, student, or society
3. Share examples of personal or professional growth, as well as potential solutions that, for example:
   - Enhance awareness among physicians for rare diseases in general
   - Strengthen interest among medical students and the medical community for addressing rare and neglected disease research and development
   - Pose strategies for improving the patient-physician relationship pertaining to rare disease management
   - Help patients and families cope with all aspects of living with a rare condition

Essay Evaluation Process

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of professionals that comprise the Global Genes' Medical and Scientific Advisory Board and patient advocate leaders based on the following criteria (not limited to these):

- Extent of contact
- Compassion
- Novelty
- Overall gained insight

Top scoring essays with be notified by email on September 9th.

For questions about the Cox Prize, please contact Carrie Ostrea, Senior Manager of Advocacy, at **carrieo@globalgenes.org**.

About STAND

Student Advocates for Neglected Diseases (STAND) is a student organization inspiring future clinicians to care about disease communities often neglected by the healthcare system. Engaging medical schools across the country, STAND connects students with neglected patient groups. STAND was started by Colton Margus, a medical student whose two brothers have a rare neurodegenerative disease. For more information on STAND or to get involved, please visit studentadvocates.org or email info@studentadvocates.org.

About David R. Cox

David R. Cox, MD, PhD was an extraordinary physician scientist, becoming Professor of Genetics and Pediatrics at UCSF and later Stanford, as well as shepherding development of genomic medicine at Pfizer. In addition to his participation in the Human Genome Project and service on numerous national advisory boards, Dr. Cox showed uncommon compassion in his involvement with advocates for rare diseases. He was especially helpful to the A-T Children's Project, an organization aiming to cure a rare and debilitating genetic disorder, ataxia telangiectasia (A-T).

Despite no personal ties to the A-T family community, over the course of 20 years, Dr. Cox gave generously of his time and expertise, leading an advisory board and orchestrating focused, innovative research that accelerated the search for finding life-improving therapies for A-T children. Even after his passing in 2013, Dr. Cox continues to inspire future clinicians to engage the patient communities most in need.