

Fall 2022

Dear Friends,

The Vasculitis Foundation (VF) cannot say thank you enough for giving to the vasculitis community. Your willingness to help others living with vasculitis inspires the VF Board of Directors and staff to work effectively toward the goals of providing more research, education programs, and awareness campaigns around this disease. I am writing to ask you to keep the momentum going. Our overall goal for this coming year is to put one foot in front of the other, which can lead to earlier diagnoses, new treatments, and ultimately a cure. Would you please consider a gift this fall to move us closer?

There are over 18 identified forms of vasculitis. You may know about the more common forms such as granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), and eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA). But there are other forms of vasculitis that are even more rare and for which there is very little, to no research being done at this time. Our Vasculitis Patient-Powered Research Network (VPPRN) conducts research on ALL the different forms of vasculitis and patients enrolled in the VPPRN are our partners in research. They are helping answer questions about symptoms, diagnoses, treatments, fatigue, COVID, and other issues that are critically important to our community.

Our Patient Educational Conferences bring together people living with all forms of vasculitis to create their own communities and learn about the latest advances. And our virtual patient support groups further build these important connections. While attending a meeting, Teresa Searls (aortic vasculitis) met other patients and no longer felt alone.

Teresa comes to every support meeting with a positive attitude, eager to help others on their journey. Each week she says, “Hi, I’m Teresa and I have aortic vasculitis with no letters.” (Teresa is referring to others in the group who identify as having GPA, MPA, and EGPA.) She lives in the Seattle, Washington area. Teresa’s doctor has been helpful treating her disease; however, Teresa would like a vasculitis center in the Seattle area to help the many patients who live there. Last year, the VF combined research, the VPPRN, Vasculitis Centers, and Medical Education all under one umbrella—known as V-BOLD (Building Outcomes, Leading Discoveries). Together, these areas work to strengthen the discovery and delivery of outstanding care for a patient, and through V-BOLD, the VF works with institutions assisting in the creation of vasculitis centers.



The support we give to these efforts is possible through the generous gifts from our donor community. As of today, there are over 20 vasculitis centers in the United States. Our goal is to have one in each of the 50 states. Would you consider giving to help further our mission?

This year, the VF is looking at our educational programming and seeking to answer these questions: How do people learn? How will the VF provide educational offerings in the future to meet our patients’ needs? It’s a big project and we are looking for solutions to deliver world class programs moving forward. I am asking you to join us. Your gift today will be put to immediate action.

We are in tough economic times. In writing this letter, I know asking for your support is challenging. You may not know this but last year over 80% of our annual appeal donations were less than \$250 each. We are deeply moved by each gift, for we know it was given by someone who has been touched by vasculitis along with the desire to offer hope to those who are personally affected.

Thank you for reading my request. We can do this!

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Kullman
Executive Director