Sous le Haut Patronage de Monsieur Nicolas Sarkozy, Président de la République Française

Under the Patronage of Mister Nicolas Sarkozy President of the French Republic

WORLD RETT SYNDROME CONGRESS

A Hand Link from Gene to Care

October 10-13, 2008
Maison de la Mutualité, Paris – France

First Announcement

www.worldrettsyndrome2008.org
Dear Colleagues,

As I write it is almost eight years to the day since “The gene was found” in September 1999.

So much has happened since that time and the acceleration in Rett syndrome research probably exceeds that of any other genetic disorder. The achievements relate to an increased understanding both of the biology of MeCP2 and the genetic determinants of the clinical variation seen in Rett syndrome. The ability to restore neurological function in mice previously lacking in MeCP2 has spurred the research community to search for therapeutic options which may be applicable to humans. Therefore we are entering an extremely exciting era for which researchers, clinicians and families alike all need to be prepared. As a community we need to work together to develop the infrastructures which, when the time comes, will allow us to undertake the scientifically rigorous clinical trials that will be required. This Rett Syndrome World Congress provides the ideal opportunity to foster such a collaborative network and to share our knowledge as we move towards the future.

Clinicians experienced in the care of children and adults with Rett syndrome and prominent international research scientists will join us in Paris to spearhead the Rett Syndrome World Congress last held in Japan in 2000.

The objectives of the Congress are:
- To provide a forum for scientists to present topical research findings in either oral or poster presentations, as well as to foster international collaborations
- To provide medical practitioners and other health care professionals, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech pathologists with an opportunity to update their knowledge and skills in the care of patients with Rett syndrome
- To provide an opportunity for parents, families and carers of those with Rett syndrome to meet other families, as well as experts in the field, who can offer practical insights into the management and care for those with Rett syndrome

We invite you to join us in making the World Rett Syndrome Congress 2008 in Paris a great success.

Clinical Associate Professor Helen Leonard
Coordinator of the Programme Committee