



News Release

Glittering London Charity Dinner for childhood sight loss research

Eyes on the Future Gala Dinner to raise funds for treatment of Leber congenital amaurosis, a severe degenerative eye condition

The parents of a child affected by Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), a severe degenerative sight loss condition, are organising a high profile gala dinner in London to raise funds for research into the disease. LCA is a form of retinitis pigmentosa and is a primary cause of blindness in children, affecting two to three in every 100,000 individuals.

The gala dinner will take place on the 10th October 2018 at The Park Lane Hotel in London. With dynamic entertainment, a cocktail reception, fine three course dinner, silent and live auctions planned, this event promises to be a highlight in the City's calendar. Confirmed guests to date include over 250 industry leaders and senior executives at investment banks and funds, law firms and insurance firms in the City of London.

All proceeds from the event will be used to fund the RDH12 Project; a new £350,000 three year project investigating LCA caused by faults in the RDH12 gene, led by RP Fighting Blindness. This work will be led by Dr Mariya Moosajee at UCL's Institute of Ophthalmology and Moorfield's Eye Hospital and aims to study the actual disease mechanisms and identify potential treatments, and was recently featured on the BBC's documentary NHS at 70 documentary.

Silvia Cerolini, the driving force behind the Eyes on the Future Gala Dinner, has a four year old daughter with LCA caused by faults in the RDH12 gene; a particularly fast progressing variant of the condition.

"The thought of your child is progressively losing their sight is heart breaking; if nothing is done, my daughter Vicky will be blind in as little as ten or 15 years," commented Silvia Cerolini, organiser of the Eyes on the Future Gala Dinner. "We are committed to doing everything we can to help Vicky and children like her. We've already fundraised for over half the RDH12 research

project costs and are excited to be hosting this wonderful gala dinner to close the gap. We sincerely thank everybody who is generously supporting us.”

The Eyes on the Future Gala Dinner will be a key fundraiser for the RDH12 Project, as well as an important awareness raising event. The project has been supported by partner charities Candle in the Dark from Belgium, The RDH12 Fund for Sight from the USA and Through Vicky’s Eyes.

“The Eyes on the Future Gala Dinner will raise much needed awareness of this little-known condition, as well as funds for vital scientific research”, commented Tina Houlihan, Chief Executive at RP Fighting Blindness. “LCA is a progressive condition and the RDH12 variant is particularly severe. Quality research is costly, and we sincerely thank Silvia for her considerable efforts in organising events like this one. Without supporters like her, we simply couldn’t undertake the important work we do.”

This event is kindly sponsored by Arrow Global, esharelife, Petroleum Equity, P&G Group: People with Disabilities and Allen & Overy, and supported by Barclays and Citi.

For further information about this Autumn event and to buy tickets, please visit

<https://www.eyesonthefuture.org.uk/>

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About RP Fighting Blindness:

RP Fighting Blindness, registered charity no. 1153851, is an organisation dedicated to finding a treatment for retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and other related inherited retinal dystrophies (IRDs), hereditary conditions of the retina which lead to deterioration of sight and ultimately to blindness. IRDs affect some 25,000 people in the UK alone. The charity seeks to stimulate and fund cutting-edge medical research and provides information and support services to those affected. The RP Fighting Blindness Research Program is currently funding multiple projects across the UK, and to date has invested over £16m in medical research.

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Picture caption: *The Eyes on the Future Gala Dinner promises an evening of fine dining and entertainment.*

