



Extract from the SADS Foundation 2001



Dear Friends,

This year, SADS will celebrate its 10th year anniversary. Notably, we will begin a new, worldwide educational effort on genetic, cardiac causes of sudden death in the young. The inaugural event will be the 1st International SADS conference on this topic, in London, in October 2002. Subsequent annual conferences will be held in different metropolitan areas of the world. When I helped start the Foundation nearly 10 years ago, we were concerned about unnecessary deaths due to uninformed medical professionals, and misdiagnoses and failure to treat. The SADS Foundation was established with the principal goals of medical professional education, general public education, family support services, patient support services, and the encouragement and support of research.

The subsequent years have been exciting, productive, and rewarding. The SADS Foundation has played a pivotal role in medical and lay public education, and a significant role in genetic research focused on the long QT syndrome. SADS' scientific advisors are national and international researchers and physicians in LQTS. SADS has been remarkably effective. Many people have contributed to this exceptional effort, and many lives have been touched and saved. Words do not adequately convey the appreciation that I, and the others who are intimately involved with SADS have for the tremendous contributions that so many people have made.

However, much remains to be done. There are still many physicians who are unfamiliar with the inherited Long QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome and other emerging genetic arrhythmias causing sudden death. Furthermore, SADS is progressively involved in cardiomyopathies and drug induced Long QT syndrome. Unfortunately, tragedies such as cardiac arrests and sudden death in young people still occur. These events are largely preventable, and thus our education and clinical care programs are still very much in need.

The SADS Foundation's success is based on thousands of individuals and families who share their stories, strength and financial resources. Physicians and researchers contribute their knowledge, clinical care and time. I thank you all, and invite your participation and support of the SADS Foundation and its life-saving programs.

With best wishes and great appreciation for your efforts,

G. Michael Vincent, M.D.

President & Medical Director