This past July, the SCID (Severe Combined Immune Deficiency) Community hosted an international conference for families who are affected or have been affected by SCID. The conference was held in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, at Wintergreen Resort and Spa. This is the first such event where families with ALL forms of SCID were invited to attend. I am happy to say we had over 140 people in attendance, with families coming from as far away as California and New Zealand! The event provided a wonderful opportunity for patients, families, children, physicians and industry to come together and learn more about this devastating disease, and the quality of life issues that go along with successful treatment. The adult educational sessions offered new, up-to-date information from top experts in the field. The children’s programs were packed with fun-filled activities for all ages, which emphasized teamwork, cooperation, and acceptance. The weekend was an incredibly special time, providing hope, support, and, invaluable information to all who attended.

Many thanks to our excellent presenters who not only came prepared to share the most current information, but also stayed for the weekend and made themselves available to families for extended conversations. Our thanks to: Barb Ballard, Dr. Mei Baker, Dr. Rebecca Buckley, Dr. Fabio Candotti, Dr. Morton Cowan, Joie Davis, Cheryl Deep, Carol Ann Demaret, Dr. Joanna Fanos, Dr. Alan Flake, Dr. Terry Harville, Dr. Harry Malech, Lindsay Middleton, and most importantly, Dr. Jennifer Puck.

A special thanks to IDF for their generous contribution toward this event. Without the help of our wonderful sponsors, this important educational event could not have been possible. We thank you and look forward to collaborating again for future conferences.

Please check out the IDF SCID Initiative section of the IDF Website for future conference information.

Many thanks...

The Petrelli and Walsh families “put a face on primary immunodeficiency disease” and thanked the donors and staff for their role in providing lifesaving plasma to our patient community at BioLife Plasma Services in DeKalb, Illinois.