LEANN RITTENBAUM OTT FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Emory+Children’s Cystic Fibrosis Center of Excellence (CFeLANTA) is establishing an award in memory of Leann Rittenbaum Ott, who died on November 1, 2018, from complications of cystic fibrosis. Leann was 33 years old, married to her loving and devoted husband Douglas Ott, and the recipient of a double-lung transplant. She was a vibrant member of the local Cystic Fibrosis family and much loved by members of this community. She will be greatly missed.

Leann was the daughter of our friend and partner Scot Rittenbaum, who serves as the Executive Director of the Georgia Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Scot is well known to many of us in CFeLANTA as a passionate advocate for our patients and families, and has been an outstanding partner to our comprehensive program. He is a great friend to all of us, and deeply supports all that we do.

Our hearts go out to Scot and to Leann’s mom, Karen, her husband, Douglas, and all of the extended family. The family, just as Leann would want, will continue their dedication to ultimately curing cystic fibrosis while engaging with the CF community.

To honor Leann’s memory, we are establishing an award in her name. The Leann Rittenbaum Ott Award will be given each year to the trainee who writes the best abstract for presentation at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference (NACFC). The award will include $250 for the trainee to use as he/she desires, and $250 toward travel expenses for the NACFC conference that year. Trainees can come from any Georgia institution that is part of CFeLANTA, including Emory University, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia.

The winning trainee will be asked to include “Leann Rittenbaum Ott Fellow in Cystic Fibrosis” in their e-mail signature line for the following year and to acknowledge this support as appropriate in presentations and publications, and will include that important designation on their résumé. A plaque memorializing Leann will be on display in the CF Center, and the awardees’ names will be added each year.

If you are interested in learning more about this ongoing effort, please contact Dr. Nael McCarty at namccare@emory.edu. A donation to fund the inaugural year of the “Leann Rittenbaum Ott Fellow in Cystic Fibrosis” has been made by an anonymous family. If you would like to help the ongoing funding of this fellowship, you can donate online at this link. Please share this message with your friends and family. We appreciate your interest and support as we seek to honor Leann’s memory.

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