



**The Jackson
Laboratory**

*Leading the search
for tomorrow's cures*

February 24, 2015

Sent via email

Dear Sharon Agli-Pageau and members of the SMARD community:

The Jackson Laboratory (JAX) is an independent, nonprofit biomedical research organization. Our mission is to discover precise genomic solutions for disease and empower the global biomedical community in the shared quest to improve human health.

Located in Bar Harbor, Maine, Farmington, Connecticut and Sacramento, California, JAX employees conduct genetic research and provide scientific services and genetic resources to laboratories around the world. Among those resources are well-characterized, preclinical mouse models to accelerate drug discovery for rare and orphan diseases, like Spinal Muscular Atrophy with Respiratory Distress (SMARD).

Additionally, the Laboratory's Rare and Orphan Disease Center brings together global mouse resources and the expertise of scientists like Greg Cox, Ph.D., and his research team at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor. As you know, Dr. Cox is one of the few genetic scientists in the world, committed to better understanding SMARD and to exploring potential therapies that would modify or neutralize the defective gene that underlies this devastating disease.

Motivated by hope for Hunter's future, you have banded together with SMARD families across the globe, to make awareness and expanded research a reality. In your home state of Connecticut, you have facilitated the introduction of **House Bill (HB) 6100, An Act Designating Spinal Muscular Atrophy With Respiratory Distress Awareness Day**, to help advance these objectives.

Thank you for your efforts to raise awareness and funds for SMARD research; your passion is inspiring.

Sincerely,

LuAnn Ballesteros
Director of Government Relations

600 Main Street Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
luann.ballesteros@jax.org
207-947-4125