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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ERDHEIM-CHESTER DISEASE GLOBAL ALLIANCE  
AWARDS \$50K GRANT TO STUDY ECD**

*New study will help better understand disease-causing cells within ECD*

**(DeRidder, LA –January 17, 2023)** Erdheim-Chester Disease Global Alliance has awarded its \$50,000 Early Career Investigator Grant to Dr. Egle Kvedaraite with the Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

Erdheim- Chester Disease is a rare type of blood cancer that results in the accumulation of histiocytes, cells that typically fight infections in organs throughout the body.

The grant will help fund the study, *Spatial understanding of Erdheim-Chester Disease origin and lesional microenvironment*. The study seeks to identify novel targets for the elimination of disease-causing cells within ECD through a more complete understanding of their origin and the environment that supports them. It is believed this research could lead to increasingly effective ECD treatments as well as an eventual complete elimination

The ECD Global Alliance, which advocates for ECD patients and their families, awards the Early Career Investigator Grants to physicians and scientists early in their careers who have made exceptional progress in the study and treatment of ECD. The ECD Global Alliance has awarded close to a million dollars in research grants since its founding and plans to award more than \$450,000 in grants in 2023.

“Those living with ECD, and their families, have seen a significant increase in treatment options and new research in the last decade,” **said Kathy Brewer, President of ECD Global Alliance**. “That is in no small part thanks to those doctors and researchers who have taken a special interest in ECD early in their careers. It’s an honor to support Dr. Kvedaraite with this grant and we look forward to working with her throughout her research.”

“Targeted treatment today can suppress ECD while on therapy, but the disease typically comes back when the treatment is stopped. This represents a serious challenge for ECD patients”, **says Dr. Kvedaraite**, and adds: “In our research, we aim to reveal novel targets for complete elimination of disease-causing cells in ECD. We are truly grateful to the ECD Global Alliance for the support enabling our work and we cannot wait to start!”

For more information on the ECD Global Alliance please contact Ben Frech at [Ben.Frech@erdheim-chester.org](mailto:Ben.Frech@erdheim-chester.org)



**Dr. Egle Kvedaraite**

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