Merz Pharmaceuticals Commends The Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation On 30 Years Of Community Support

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GREENSBORO, N.C., July 22, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Merz Pharmaceuticals, LLC, commends the Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation (BEBRF) for 30 years of dedication to increasing awareness of blepharospasm, a neurological disorder that causes abnormal, involuntary spasms of the muscles around the eye, and raising funds for research. Founded on July 23, 1981, BEBRF has grown to be an invaluable resource for the blepharospasm community.

Many people living with blepharospasm have spent months or even years experiencing the symptoms of uncontrollable eyelid blinking before receiving an accurate diagnosis. It was a similar delay in diagnosis and an overall lack of awareness among both physicians and the public that motivated Mattie Lou Koster to form BEBRF 30 years ago. Today, her daughter Mary Lou Thompson continues to lead the organization, which aims to undertake, promote, develop and carry on the search for the cause and a cure for blepharospasm.

"I'm so pleased to celebrate how far BEBRF has come in the past 30 years," said Mary Lou, President of BEBRF. "It's been such an honor for me to continue my mother's goal of creating a foundation that addresses the needs of patients while raising awareness of blepharospasm so it becomes more easily recognized. I thank the remarkable members of the blepharospasm community and our supportive partners for all of their hard work over the years."

Through a network of local support groups, educational activities and collaboration with other organizations that have similar goals, BEBRF has had a significant impact on the blepharospasm community. The symposiums, newsletters, website, pamphlets and other materials provided by the organization have been influential in helping people better understand their diagnosis while raising awareness of the condition.

"BEBRF has bettered the lives of blepharospasm sufferers and their families worldwide in the last 30 years," said Richard L. Anderson, M.D.
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