

Dear families

I am pleased to inform you that opened the RING14 USA Association.

The President is Terry Granard, mother of Eli with RING14, who can be contacted at the following address:

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The Italian and American RING14 associations contribute to the same objectives in particular on scientific research and support to families, while still maintaining some autonomy projects related to their territory.

Over the next 2 months the Boards of the associations will work to unify the procedures, joint projects and goals, create an international scientific committee.

We both agree on the pursuit of the main goal that is: **TO RAISE FUNDS AND DATA (GENETIC AND CLINICAL) TO FINANCE THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.**

Earlier this year we will set up an international association that will manage the various RING14's offices in the World (Italy and the USA up to now).

The Web sites www.ring14.it and <http://www.ring14usa.net> will be grouped into a single portal under construction.

Families will be common to both organizations, could participate as now to all the projects proposed (holliday, congress, blood and data collection....) by both Italy and USA and will be contacted by both seats.

For now the BIO BANK and DATA BASE projects will continue to be managed by RING14 ITALY, funding scientific research projects will be done jointly creating INTERNATIONAL GRANTS to offer to the best researchers in the word with peer review control.

We apologize if at this early stage not all information will be clear and precise but it is important that all families know this wonderful news that does not divide us but strengthen us.

Many thanks to Terry, Yssa, Sylvia, Debbie, Minka and Karen who are devoting their time to start this important project; our support is complete!

On the occasion of our tenth anniversary is truly beautiful to inaugurate the RING14 USA!

If you have any questions call me or Terry, in the coming months we will inform you of various activities.

Best wishes to all.

Stefania Azzali
Presidente RING14 ITALY

Terry Granard
President of RING14 USA