



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **National Psoriasis Foundation awards \$50,000 research grant *Case Western University doctor will study link to psoriasis and cardiovascular disease***

PORTLAND, Ore. (May 3, 2010)—The National Psoriasis Foundation awarded Nicole Ward, Ph.D., of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, a one-year, \$50,000 Discovery Research Grant to study psoriasis—a non-contagious, chronic disease of the immune system that appears on the skin, affecting as many as 7.5 million Americans.

Dr. Ward, assistant professor in the department of dermatology, will determine the connection between psoriasis and cardiovascular comorbidities such as atherosclerosis, a disease of the arteries, and heart disease. Ward's goal is to identify the cellular and molecular links to psoriasis and these associated diseases in order to provide new insight into therapeutic treatments.

"We are proud and honored to support Dr. Ward's project," said Chip Newton, member of the National Psoriasis Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee. "Her research endeavor is imperative to finding new treatments and, ultimately, a cure for psoriasis, which is the Foundation's highest priority."

Dr. Ward's Discovery Grant was one of eight awarded to top scientists to provide support for pilot research that focuses on the Psoriasis Foundation's four research pathways of genetics, cell biology, immunology and epidemiological/health sciences.

Since 1975, the Psoriasis Foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in grants to support promising psoriasis research and is the largest charitable funder of psoriatic disease research worldwide.

To learn more about the National Psoriasis Foundation research initiatives and grant program, visit [www.psoriasis.org](http://www.psoriasis.org).

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### **About Psoriasis**

Psoriasis is the most prevalent autoimmune disease in the country, affecting as many as 7.5 million Americans. Appearing on the skin most often as red scaly patches that itch and bleed, psoriasis is chronic, painful, disfiguring and disabling. Up to 30 percent of people with psoriasis develop psoriatic arthritis, a related joint disease. There is no cure for psoriasis.

### **About the National Psoriasis Foundation**

The National Psoriasis Foundation is the world's largest nonprofit organization serving people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Our mission is to find a cure for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and to eliminate their devastating effects through research, advocacy and education. For more information, call the Psoriasis Foundation, headquartered in Portland, Ore., at 800.723.9166, or visit [www.psoriasis.org](http://www.psoriasis.org).

