Eosinophil Associated Disorders
FACT SHEET

A group of uncommon chronic illnesses, eosinophil (E-o-si-n-o-fil) associated disorders, are rapidly emerging as a healthcare problem worldwide. Yet, many patients suffering from these disorders go undiagnosed for years due to a lack of information or awareness of these diseases.

What is an Eosinophil?
• A type of white blood cell associated with allergies, parasites, and cancers

What are Eosinophil Associated Disorders?
• High numbers of eosinophils accumulate in body tissues causing inflammation and damage
• Classified by body tissue where eosinophils accumulate
• Diagnosed and monitored by tissue biopsies
• Chronic diseases requiring long term treatment, with no known cure
• Debilitating diseases leading to missed work, school, social outings
• Delays in diagnosis are common

Eosinophilic Esophagitis
• Causes inflammation and damage to the esophagus, affecting the ability to eat
• Estimated prevalence of more than 1 per 2000
• Increase in new cases (2 – 10 fold) over the past 10 years
• Patients may depend on steroids or medical nutrition therapy through a feeding tube

Eosinophilic Gastroenteritis (EGE), and Eosinophilic Gastritis (EG)
• Causes inflammation and damage to the stomach and/or small intestine, often misdiagnosed
• Estimated prevalence of EGE and EC combined is 1 per 3500
• Causes severe abdominal pain, forceful vomiting and/or diarrhea
• Treatment may involve a limited diet, feeding tube and/or steroids

Eosinophilic Colitis (EC)
• Causes inflammation and damage to the large intestine (colon)
• May be misdiagnosed as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) or Inflammatory bowel disease
• Patients may require restricted diet therapy, elemental formula or chronic steroids

Hypereosinophilic Syndrome (HES)
• Diagnosed by very high numbers of eosinophils in the blood and tissue
• Causes potentially fatal damage to one or more organs in the body (heart, lungs, gut, skin)

Churg-Strauss Syndrome (CSS)
• Eosinophils cause damage to small to medium blood vessels (vasculitis)
• Patient may initially be diagnosed with severe asthma
• Causes potentially fatal lung, heart, brain or gastrointestinal damage
• Estimated to be 60-80 CSS cases/million asthmatics/year
What is the Role of APFED?
• 501(c)3 non-profit lay advocacy organization for those living with eosinophilic disorders
• Mission: Awareness, Education, Support and Research
• Raise funds for research through a peer-reviewed grant program