



For Immediate Release

Contact: Stacy-Pike Langenfeld
Title: Director of Programs and Administration
Email: stacypike@tloaf.org
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The Legacy of Angels Foundation Announces the 2020 Award Recipient The Sue Rosenau Legacy Award

It is with great pleasure to announce the recipient of the **2020 Sue Rosenau Legacy Award**. The Legacy of Angels Foundation (TLOAF) created this award in 2019 to honor the late Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Sue Rosenau. Sue, a remarkable and driven wife, mother, and rare disease advocate, lost her 3-year battle of ovarian and serous endometrial cancer in July of 2018. To keep Sue's legacy alive within the foundation and community at large, TLOAF honors an individual each year for his/her achievements in Sue's name.

This year, our foundation is pleased to congratulate, **Dr. Philip Farrell, MD, PhD., a board-certified neonatologist and pediatric pulmonologist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison**. Dr. Farrell, a kind-hearted investigator, is a nationally recognized leader in newborn screening for Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Dr. Farrell's passion for CF began during his 3rd-year as a medical student at St. Louis University. He witnessed firsthand how CF affected the life of an 8-year old girl. This child left an enormous impression on Dr. Farrell personally and professionally which he harnesses for inspiration and motivation in his everyday work. He stated, "I still remember that 8-year old girl in 1966 who died suffocating, I felt that no child should ever experience such suffering."

Cystic Fibrosis is the most common rare disease of European decent. CF is caused by a mutation in the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator or CFTR. The CFTR is an important protein in the human body. It's responsible for regulating the viscosity, or in layman's terms, the stickiness of mucus, that lines the ducts of several organs. The extra mucus clogs passageways or ducts, especially in the lungs and pancreas, triggering a breeding zone for infections.

Dr. Philip Farrell was a top contender for the 2020 legacy award because his 4-decades of research efforts in the Cystic Fibrosis has directly advanced early identification of CF through newborn screening. Dr. Farrell leads the WI Cystic Fibrosis Neonatal Screening Project, leads national research efforts in NBS quality improvement for Cystic Fibrosis (a collaborative effort with the CF Foundation and the CDC), leads an international interdisciplinary team investigating the ancient origin of CF, and so much [more](#). His current project, funded by TLOAF, "Assessing the Added Value of Whole Genome Sequencing in Cystic Fibrosis Newborn Screening," hopes to prove that genome sequencing can offer medical personnel additional insight on the compatibility of medicines for a patient's unique genetic variants. Results of this project should be available to the public in late 2021.

Dr. Ellen Wald, MD, Chair and Professor of the University of WI Department of Pediatrics states, “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Dr. Farrell for over 14 years at the U of WI--Madison’s School of Medicine and Public Health, but his tremendous impact to our school’s research, medical education, and pediatric clinical care extend decades before our time together. He is a dedicated physician-scientist, whose outstanding research on CF paved the way for nationwide CF newborn screening. His current research into the origin of CF and his commitment to quality in the operation of newborn screening programs will no doubt further pediatric clinical care and profoundly expand our understanding of CF.”

TLOAF selected Dr. Farrell because his work and commitments align with the Sue Rosenau Legacy Award conditions. The purpose of this award is to recognize an inspirational leader who collectively creates lasting change and measurable differences in one or more areas of our mission. Dr. Farrell has delivered extraordinary contributions, worked to propel progress in those living with CF, and continuously supports other CF work whenever possible; a replica of the late-Co-Founder, Sue Rosenau. For more information about The Legacy of Angels Foundation, we invite you to visit tloaf.org.

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