



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO, ANGELMAN SYNDROME FOUNDATION AND DUP15q ALLIANCE ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF A NEW 15q CLINIC AND RESEARCH FACILITY AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL COLORADO**

**Sept. 10, 2020 [AURORA, CO and CHICAGO]** — Thousands of families affected by Angelman syndrome (AS) and Dup15q syndrome now have greater access to comprehensive clinical care through the opening of a new [15q Clinic and Research Facility](#) at [Children's Hospital Colorado](#) (Children's Colorado) in Aurora, Colo. The clinic opened on April 20, 2020, and has already seen approximately 20 patients from Colorado as well as Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Angelman and Dup15q syndromes are two rare conditions that occur due to problems with the same region of chromosome 15. Because of that, they share symptoms (developmental delays, GI problems, seizures, etc.) that often require specialized care. Due to the rareness of the syndromes, local general practitioners and even specialized doctors often do not have a thorough knowledge of the complications and treatments. The new clinic at Children's Colorado, just as other clinics across the nation, ensures greater access to higher quality care for individuals and families.

The clinic at Children's Colorado is led by [Jessica Duis, MD, MS](#), Genetics and Inherited Metabolic Diseases, and pediatric neurologist [Diana Walleigh, MD](#). The clinic includes specialists from neurology, genetics, developmental medicine, rehabilitation medicine, diet and nutrition, speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

"I am grateful to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation (ASF) for providing the opportunity to start a new multidisciplinary program at Children's Colorado. The Angelman and Dup15q families I have come to know have touched my heart, and it is my passion to provide comprehensive, leading-edge care to individuals with these syndromes," said Duis. "I am so proud our clinic will offer specialty care with a multidisciplinary approach and could not be more thrilled with the team we have assembled."

Dr. Duis previously founded the Angelman Syndrome Clinic at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she focused her career on providing a medical home for children/adults with Angelman syndrome and Dup15q. Dr. Duis completed her medical training at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

## New 15q Clinic and Research Facility at Children's Colorado

Page 2 of 3

"The opening of a clinic in Denver has been on our wish list for many years now. Many of our families need this crucial care through their journey, and Dr. Duis has long been a staple in our community. We are so excited to bring her expertise and care to the families in the Colorado area," said Amanda Moore, CEO of the Angelman Syndrome Foundation.

For more than a decade the [ASF](#) and [Dup15q Alliance](#) have been supporting multidisciplinary clinics to ensure up-to-date, evidence-based clinical care for individuals with Angelman and Dup15q syndromes. What began as a few clinics has grown to almost 20 sites in the U.S. with four international sites between the two organizations. These clinics work to standardize care for those with these disorders and serve as a platform for robust clinical research.

### **More Information:**

**Angelman syndrome** is a rare genetic disorder caused by the loss of function of a specific gene called UBE3A on the maternal copy of chromosome 15 during fetal development, resulting in neurological impairment often recognized as developmental delay around six months of age. It is characterized by factors including severely impaired expressive language, seizures, walking and balance disorders, and frequent laughter and excitability. While there is no definitive count, it is estimated that Angelman syndrome occurs in one in every 15,000 live births. New treatments are in phase I/II trials to reactivate the paternal copy of chromosome 15q.

**Dup15q syndrome** is a clinically identifiable syndrome that results from the duplication (or multiplication) of the same maternal portion of the 15q chromosome that is deleted in Angelman syndrome. Also known as chromosome 15q11.2-q13.1 duplication syndrome, this is a neurodevelopmental disorder that confers a strong risk for autism spectrum disorder, epilepsy and intellectual disability, etc. It is estimated to occur in one out of every 8,000-10,000 live births.

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### **About Angelman Syndrome Foundation**

The ASF is a national nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with Angelman syndrome and their families through education and information, research and support. Since ASF was officially incorporated in 1992, it has funded 101 research grants totaling \$9.5 million. For more information about the ASF, visit [www.angelman.org](http://www.angelman.org)

### **About Dup15q Alliance**

Dup15q Alliance provides family support and promotes awareness, research and targeted treatments for chromosome 15q11.2-13.1 duplication syndrome. Through our work to raise awareness and promote research into chromosome 15q duplications, we seek to find targeted treatments so that affected individuals can live full and productive lives. Together with our families, Dup15q Alliance is working toward a better tomorrow for children with chromosome 15q11.2-13.1 duplication (dup15q) syndrome. [www.dup15q.org](http://www.dup15q.org)

### **About Children's Hospital Colorado**

Children's Hospital Colorado is one of the nation's leading and most expansive pediatric healthcare systems with a mission to improve the health of children through patient care, education, research and advocacy. Founded in 1908 and recognized as a top ten children's hospital by *U.S. News & World Report*, Children's Colorado has established itself as a pioneer in the discovery of innovative and groundbreaking treatments that are shaping the future of pediatric healthcare worldwide. Children's Colorado offers a full spectrum of family-centered care at its urgent, emergency and specialty care locations throughout Colorado, including its location on the Anschutz Medical Campus, and across the region. In 2019, Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs, opened as the first pediatric-only hospital in southern Colorado. For more information, visit [www.childrenscolorado.org](http://www.childrenscolorado.org), or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Children's Hospital Colorado complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

## **New 15q Clinic and Research Facility at Children's Colorado**

*Page 3 of 3*

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