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### **Rare Lung Disease, Lymphangioleiomyomatosis, Debuts in Primetime on Fox's *House, M.D.*, Thanks to Local Non-Profit**

The LAM Foundation, a worldwide organization headquartered in Cincinnati, announces that lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) will be one of the diseases woven into the storyline on Fox's *House, M.D.*, airing tonight, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8pm EST.

Focusing the spotlight on a rare disease requires creativity. Marsha Cohen, M.D., a member of The LAM Foundation Board of Directors and a LAM patient, had an idea. Looking at the facts - LAM occurs almost exclusively in women, is relatively unknown, difficult to diagnose, and the symptoms mimic other illnesses – Marsha concluded that such a unique and interesting disease would be an excellent disease to feature on a TV medical show. Cohen contacted a writer for the Emmy Award winning show, *House, M.D.*, to discuss the possibility of featuring LAM as a disease on the show. She presented a scenario outlining the main details of LAM along with a few key medical articles and was soon contacted for more information.

*House, M.D.* writers then consulted with Frank McCormack, M.D. as medical advisor for the episode to ensure accurate medical knowledge about LAM. Dr. McCormack, The LAM Foundation's Scientific Director, is the world's foremost authority on this disease and also the Director of the Division of Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Storyline can trump fact and The LAM Foundation cannot control how LAM is presented during the show. For complete information about LAM, please visit our website [www.thelamfoundation.org](http://www.thelamfoundation.org).

#### **About LAM**

Lymphangioleiomyomatosis, better known as LAM, is a progressive lung disease that affects women of all races, typically striking women in the prime of their lives – most often during their childbearing years. Most women and many health providers are unaware of the existence of the disease and its symptoms. LAM often goes misdiagnosed as asthma, emphysema, or chronic bronchitis. Scientists estimate that there may be as many as 250,000 to 300,000 women with LAM worldwide. This disease is characterized by an unusual type of smooth muscle cell that invades the tissue of the lungs. Over time, the LAM cells create holes in the lungs, preventing them from providing oxygen to the rest of the body and making breathing a daily battle. In early stages of the disease, most patients can go about their daily activities, but as the disease progresses, the patient may have very limited mobility, require oxygen and as a last resort, need a lung transplant.

#### **The LAM Foundation ([thelamfoundation.org](http://www.thelamfoundation.org))**

The LAM Foundation was established in Cincinnati in 1995 to bring hope to patients with lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM). When Founder Sue Byrnes' daughter was diagnosed with LAM in 1994, the lack of evidence-based medical advice and scientific research was as frightening to her as the diagnosis itself. Byrnes contacted Dr. McCormack, who has since devoted much of his life to the study of LAM. Byrnes' initiated a letter-writing campaign to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to pulmonary physicians around the country. She organized LAM patients around the world into a cohesive group focused on medical research. To date The LAM Foundation has invested nearly \$7 million to fund 79 research projects, some of the discoveries of which have led to the first ever LAM treatment trial, currently enrolling patients.

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**Please visit The LAM Foundation media room:**

**<http://www.thelamfoundation.org/news-and-events/media-room.html>**