



Executive Director Report Fiscal Year 2007

Dear Members & Friends of F.I.R.S.T.,

As I work on the last minute changes to the conference activities, I am getting very excited to see many of you in Chicago. We are planning a wonderful and worthwhile program full of activities and entertainment for all ages. Our theme of "Educate, Inspire, & Connect" will be evident throughout the weekend. Our attendance is the highest ever. There is still time for you to register if you would like to attend. The deadline is June 6. If you are unable to attend, please look forward to highlights and pictures in the next issue.

Our annual spring membership mailing will be arriving shortly, if you haven't received it already. Please be sure to renew or reactivate your membership with F.I.R.S.T. If you cannot afford the suggested membership donation, please do not hesitate to let me know by calling or emailing the office.

The 2nd annual Phantom Tea is in full swing. Donations from this national fund raiser are arriving at our office every day. We hope to double our donations from last year, from \$32,000 to \$64,000. It is really an easy way to get involved and make a difference for F.I.R.S.T. If you haven't sent back your postcard to participate, please send it in. It's not too late to take part.

F.I.R.S.T. is also beginning to see the benefit of members ordering flowers from Flowerpetal.com. Here is another simple way to help F.I.R.S.T. Visit { [HYPERLINK "www.scalyskin/flowerpetal.com%20"](http://www.scalyskin/flowerpetal.com%20) } and order your flowers for relatives, friends, and loved ones. Twelve percent of every sale is donated back to F.I.R.S.T.

F.I.R.S.T. is working tirelessly to help our members and those affected with ichthyosis and the related skin types. The Foundation is fortunate to be governed by an extremely strong and committed Board of Directors and Executive Officers. Today, we are reaching new heights that were only dreams a few years ago. Through our programs and services, we are growing stronger every day, one member at a time.

Sincerely,

Jean R. Pickford
Executive Director

The Lennox Foundation Grant

Great news and congratulations to F.I.R.S.T.! We recently were awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Lennox Foundation. Many, many special thanks to Suzanne Phelps, who provided this opportunity for F.I.R.S.T. The Lennox Foundation is a family-run foundation, and only relatives can nominate organizations for funding. Suzanne's son is affected with a yet-to-be diagnosed type of ichthyosis and she recommended F.I.R.S.T. for the Lennox Foundation's large grant cycle.

The funds we received will be designated to support our new four-year strategic plan. There is the potential for two additional grants in the next two years. This year's funds are earmarked for three specific programs: 1) an Ichthyosis Clinical Scholar Program; 2) the Ichthyosis Registry; and 3) an Ichthyosis Telemedicine Project. You will be hearing more about it these programs in the very near future.