SADS FOUNDATION
SUDDEN ARRHYTHMIA DEATH SYNDROMES

Contact: Jennifer Berko
Community Engagement Coordinator
Jennifer@SADS.org

February 10, 2025

Andy Golden Memorial Fund - generously established by his wife and daughter through a $50,000 endowment to the SADS Foundation - continues a legacy of support and research for rare heart conditions

The Andy Golden Memorial Fund, established by a generous $50,000 endowment from Andy Golden's wife, Alexandra Valsamakis, and his daughter, Zoe Golden, will empower the Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation to provide more families with the support and education they need. This ensures what Andy started, continues in his absence:

- **Family Engagement –** supporting families through one-on-one personal support and access to world experts, bringing families together at conferences and seminars through scholarships for those in need, and facilitating patient support groups so families do not travel this journey alone.
- **Community Engagement** – enlarging the community through outreach, getting people involved with one another, and providing educational resources to spread the word at places of work, school, and play.
- **Scientific Purpose** – providing the patient voice for research to improve the efficacy of treatments as well as collecting and analyzing patient information to identify issues and concerns of patients with SADS conditions.

Andy Golden, Ph.D. was a Senior Investigator and Section Chief with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he is remembered as a brilliant scientist and mentor. Andy was instrumental in the advancement of research for Timothy Syndrome (TS), a rare genetic condition supported by SADS that affects a child's heart, nervous, and immune systems. He drew inspiration from the TS parents and kids he met at the SADS conference and went on to successfully model a TS worm in his lab to improve the symptoms of TS kids. He became the first president of the Board of Trustees for the Timothy Syndrome Foundation in 2021.

"Andy was a natural leader among our families - it was particularly evident by his popularity at our conferences," says Alice Lara, RN, Executive Director of the SADS Foundation. "It is in keeping with Andy's many generous donations to SADS over the years, that Alexandra and Zoe created this fund ensuring the tremendous generosity Andy showed in donations, his time, knowledge, and energy will continue to be felt by families even as his physical presence is terribly missed."

About the SADS Foundation (SADS)

Established in 1991 by Dr. Michael Vincent, The Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes Foundation (SADS) is a community of families, medical professionals, and supporters saving lives and advancing care for people with heart arrhythmia conditions that can lead to sudden death. Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) are genetic heart conditions that can cause sudden death in young, apparently healthy people.

###