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## **The Audi Gerstein Platelet Disorder Scholarship For Undergraduate/Graduate Students with Platelet Disorders**

Sometimes in life, people cross paths in a way you could never imagine. They reach out to you, touch your life and leave a huge impression. Audi Gerstein was such a person. Since its inception in 1998, Audi contributed much time and devotion to the PDSA. She was always there to help in any way she could by sharing her knowledge and wisdom. Many people knew Audi from the PDSA Discussion Board and came to depend on her guidance.

On April 4, 2008, Audi passed away at the age of 52 due to complications from Lupus. Audi spent most of her life battling ITP and Lupus but managed to lead a very full, productive life. She was a teacher and prided herself on her ability to help others. Education was very important to Audi, and she wanted nothing more than to believe that she had played a part in assisting others and changing their lives in some way.

When Audi passed away, she left a large hole in the hearts of many. In order to commemorate Audi, the PDSA has decided to award a scholarship in her honor to those suffering from platelet disorders.

### **The Scholarship Program**

The PDSA strives to provide patient information and support through its many publications and conferences. We report up to date treatment options and clinical trials in which patients may choose to participate. We realize the financial difficulty of living with a chronic disorder and the huge burden of medical bills, which is why the scholarship would be beneficial. We also believe that education is the key to success.