



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.



Who is Eligible for the Scholarship?*

Awards are restricted to senior high school students, current college students, or adults interested in continuing education who have ITP or a similar inherited or non-inherited diagnosed platelet disorder. The Scholarship award is intended to assist full-time undergraduate or graduate students entering or attending an accredited technical school, two or four year college, university or graduate school in the United States. The Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen. There is no GPA requirement, however, the applicant must have acceptance to the college of their choice. Former Scholarship recipients are not permitted to reapply (those who have won book awards are eligible). Family members of ITP patients or PDSA board members or Scholarship committee members are not eligible to apply.

The Process (remember when you are writing your essay to include your name only on the application and NOT in the body of the essay). If you are writing a recommendation letter for someone, please use 'he' or 'she' in place of their name in the recommendation. We would like the scholarship selection committee to not be able to identify anyone by name.

The 2011 – 2012 process will be as follows: A 700 – 1,000 word essay is required which details how your platelet disorder has resulted in your growth as a person; what you learned about your own strengths and weaknesses. If you feel it's changed you, whether emotionally or physically, describe how it changed your approach to life and relationships. Describe how having an illness might have affected your life's accomplishments and helped you set goals. If you feel that having a chronic illness has helped you choose a career path, describe how, and explain why you feel this way and what you have done to meet these educational goals. Explain what your plans are for the future in meeting your educational responsibilities, in light of your struggles with a platelet disorder.

An Application will be due and submitted to the PDSA no earlier than March 16 and no later than April 16, and awards will be announced by June 1. **Incomplete or late Applications will not be considered after April 16th.** Scholarship award winners will be announced on our website. The essays and applications will be reviewed and judged by an impartial panel selected by the PDSA Board of Directors.

Scholarship Funds

Scholarship Funds will be awarded in a one-time payment of \$1,000 during the academic year. Payments will be made directly to the institution prior to the start of the fall semester.

***The PDSA reserves the right to change eligibility criteria yearly and does not guarantee the availability of scholarship awards annually.**

Audi Gerstein ITP Scholarship Application

Student's Full Name: Address: Birth date: Student's or Parent's E-mail address:

Name of diagnosed platelet disorder:

Parent(s)/ Guardian Name(s), if applicable:

Parent(s)/Guardian Address(s), if applicable:

Parent(s)/Guardian Phone Number(s), if applicable:

Student's Phone Number(s), if different:

What is the name of the school you are attending now?

To which college or technical school have you been accepted?

Please provide 2 written recommendation letters from adults who are not related to you. **Please have the person who is writing the recommendation letter use 'he' or 'she' in place of the applicant's name. We want the scholarship selection committee to not be able to identify anyone by name.** The recommendations may be sent in hard copy to the address below or they may be sent via e-mail to pdsa.org (attn Sara Armstrong). For our confirmation, please include the names and phone numbers of these individuals.

I, _____, do hereby state that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have received an acceptance letter from the above mentioned college or institution, and that I meet eligibility criteria as defined above.

(Upon award notification, a recent photo may be requested for publication. The photo will not be returned.)

Signature

Date _____

Complete the application and return to:

Platelet Disorder Support Applications
Attention: Audi Gerstein ITP Scholarship
133 Rollins Avenue, Suite 5
Rockville, MD 20852