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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (SADS)  
3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference August 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Silent Killer Continues To Go Undetected**

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) continue to kill at an alarming rate, claiming the lives of thousands of young people every year. The sudden and unexpected deaths are due to heart arrhythmia brought on by detectable, but often overlooked heart rhythm abnormalities or repolarization. It can strike at any time.

**The 3rd International SADS Conference will be held on August 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City, Utah,** where families, physicians, and the foremost providers of cardiac care will gather for an opportunity to discuss early diagnosis and treatment of patients with inherited causes of sudden death.

As many as 12 in every 5,000 young people may be genetically predisposed to these deadly conditions and it affects every walk of life. Former NBA star Yinka Dare and NCAA basketball player Hank Gathers, both tremendous athletes, died due to the sudden arrhythmia disorder.

Dick Stafford lost his almost sixteen-year-old son, Andrew, who suddenly lost consciousness and died due to sudden heart arrhythmia brought on an undetected Long QT Syndrome. The hospital staff was puzzled why a healthy, normal football player could not sustain a heartbeat. Further medical inquiry could not pinpoint a specific cause of death but Dick was urged to begin genetic testing with himself and his two surviving children. The test results indicated that they suffered from the Long Q.T. Syndrome. With proper diagnosis, Andrew's siblings Doug and Katy began successful treatment for Long Q.T. Syndrome and are doing well.

Dick's story is all too common. "Though there are not words adequate to describe the death of a son and brother, we are grateful that through Andrew's death, we were able to have a diagnosis for Katy and Doug." says Stafford.

"Early detection and proper treatment of Long QT patients can save lives," says Dr. G. Michael Vincent, a leading cardiologist in the detection of the LQT syndrome. "If a child, teenager or young adult suffers a blackout without an obvious cause, especially if it was precipitated by exercise, swimming or emotional distress, I recommend asking the doctor about Long QT."

The SADS Foundation is committed to educating families and the medical community by raising public awareness throughout the world. During the month of September (**SADS Awareness Month**) the Foundation will contribute hundreds of hours and distribute thousands of materials in every state through grass routes efforts in order to teach families, educators and medical professionals specifically about the LQT syndrome.

The SADS Foundation needs your help to save the lives and support the families of children and young adults who are genetically predisposed to sudden death due to heart rhythm abnormalities. To find out more about information about, activities, events, and programs available in your area, contact us 1-800-STOP-SAD.

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