



About Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- Inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD, describes two similar yet distinct conditions called Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.
- These diseases affect the digestive system and cause the intestinal tissue to become inflamed, form sores and bleed easily. Symptoms include abdominal pain, cramping, fatigue and diarrhea.
- Crohn's disease can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract, from the mouth to the anus. Patches of inflammation occur, with healthy tissue between the diseased areas. The inflammation can extend through every layer of affected bowel tissue. Crohn's disease can not be cured by drugs or surgery, although either or both can help relieve symptoms.
- Ulcerative colitis affects only the inner layer of the colon, or large bowel. It always starts in the rectum and may extend as a continuous inflammation from there into the the rest of the colon. Usually ulcerative colitis can be controlled with medication. The disease can be completely eliminated by surgically removing the colon, but afterward, waste material may have to be stored and expelled through an external appliance.
- There is no known cause or cure for IBD.
- In Canada, an estimated 100,000 Canadian men, women and children suffer from IBD.
- People are most frequently diagnosed between the ages of 15-25, or 45-55.
- IBD is particularly difficult for children and young adults since it often affects a person's self-concept, body image and lifestyle at a time when "being like everyone else" is so important.
- IBD is unpredictable. Most people experience periods of remission and flare-ups of the disease, often requiring long-term medication, hospitalization or surgery.
- Although IBD is found throughout the world, it seems to be more common in North America and northern Europe. Canada is believed to have one of the highest incidence rates of IBD in the world.

Website map

CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION -- LONG ISLAND CHAPTER
BRIEFING FOR RIPKA VIDEO

You have been asked to record a video for the foundation's Long Island Fall Luncheon, at which David Ripka (son of Judith Ripka) is being honored along with his wife Samantha. You met David and Samantha at your 50th birthday party at the White House. This video is being made possible by the support of Beth Dozoretz.

David Ripka has endured many difficult years as a Crohn's & Colitis patient. On October 2, he was flown from New York to Cleveland for his second surgery in 6 months.

David and the entire Ripka family have been extremely involved with the foundation's fundraising and public awareness activities. (The Ripkas have already raised more than \$200,000 for this one event alone.) The video will be shown on Saturday, October 30, 1999. More than 500 guests are expected for the luncheon at the Garden City Hotel in Garden City, New York.

CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION -- LONG ISLAND CHAPTER
VIDEO FOR DAVID AND SAMANTHA RIPKA

I'm sorry that I couldn't be w/ you in person, but

who are
this afternoon
Good afternoon everyone. I want to add my voice to those that will be there praising all of the fine people being honored by the Long Island Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. And I particularly want to add a few special words on behalf of David and Samantha Ripka, who are being presented with the Vision of Hope Award.

I've known David and his family -- and especially his mother, Judith -- for several years now. And what a wonderful family it is. I've enjoyed having the Ripka contingent with me for my birthday party at the White House, and it's always nice when I have a chance to see the Ripkas in New York. *58th*

David and Samantha, you have both persevered through many difficult times. But, throughout it all, you have always found such meaningful ways to serve your community. You have, as underscored by the name of the award you are receiving, always carried such an impressive vision of hope.

So let me thank you for saluting two people who deserve it so much, who bring such honor to their families and friends, who serve the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation with such commitment.

I wish I could be there in person, but because I can't, I'm grateful for this opportunity to say to you, David and Samantha, Good job. Your friends, families, and colleagues are all very proud of you. Here is wishing you good health -- and continued success -- for many years to come.

finally, no one waits
research new medicines

DRAFT

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS
LONG ISLAND CHAPTER, CROHN'S AND COLITIS FOUNDATION
VISION OF HOPE AWARD TO DAVID AND SAMANTHA RIPKA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1999
TAPED OCTOBER 22, 1999

Good afternoon. I'm sorry that I can't be there with you in person, but I am pleased to be able to lend my voice to those who have gathered today to honor two very special people – David and Samantha Ripka.

I have known David's mother, my good friend, Judith Ripka-Berk, and her husband Ron for many years. When they came to the White House two years ago to help me celebrate my 50th birthday, I had the privilege of meeting Samantha, David and their two beautiful children, Bradley and Jamie.

David and Samantha's courage, resilience and defiance in the face of this horrible affliction make them stand out as role models for the 2 million Americans – many of them children – who also suffer from Crohn's disease. David has endured chronic pain and many surgeries since the onset of symptoms 16 years ago. Yet, he and Samantha have refused to give in to his illness, determined instead to live useful, productive and happy lives. They are truly "visions of hope."

Without a doubt, the fight against this awful disease has been a family affair for the Ripka-Berks. David's brothers took turns caring for him when he was hospitalized this past April. And without fanfare, the Judith and Ron have funded research, endowed clinics, and lobbied their representatives ^{to study effects disease} ^{for health care reform} all with an eye to wiping Crohn's Disease from the face of the earth. ^{most} ^{their} It is a testament to their hard work and dedication that today's luncheon has raised the most money ever for the Long Island Chapter of the C-C-F-A ^{biomedical research industry}

Congratulations to you all. Thank you and have a wonderful afternoon.

With their heavy disease

finding a cure
making lives better
until a cure...

research
better education
programs

no cure
current
treatment
ineffective

new
medicine

→ Cured Smaller polio
21st century can cure this...

11th Annual
Long Island
Fall Luncheon

better treatments
--- and one
day cure

→ allow suffering
fund vital biomedical
research make our
one day cure dream of a cure a
reality...

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Good afternoon. I want to thank the Long Island Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America – and all of you for working to bring health and hope to so many Americans. I only wish I could be there in person to pay tribute to the two very special people you are honoring today – David and Samantha Ripka.

I have known David's mother, Judith and her husband Ron for many years. But, it wasn't until two years ago, at the White House, that I had the privilege of meeting Samantha, David and their two beautiful children, Bradley and Jamie. I was struck then, as I have been in the days since, by David and Samantha's courage, resilience and defiance in the face of so much suffering. They are truly "visions of hope" for all of us – especially the 2 million Americans – many of them children – who also suffer from Crohn's disease.

Without a doubt, the fight against this disease has been a family affair for the Ripka-Berks. I know that David's brothers took turns caring for him when he was hospitalized this past April. And without fanfare, Judith and Ron have funded research, endowed clinics, and lobbied their representatives for health care reforms. It is a testament to their hard work and dedication that today's luncheon has raised the most money ever for biomedical research.

When we look back on the 20th century, we can be proud of the advances we've made: the end of smallpox. New therapies for AIDS. The mapping of the Human Genome. And I hope when the history of the next century is written, they will be able to say that we finally wiped Crohn's Disease from the face of the earth. And when that happens, it will be in large part because David, Samantha and all of you continued to fight for better research, education, treatment, and, above all, a cure.

Congratulations to you all. I wish you good health – and continued success – for many years to come.

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Congratulations to you all. Thank you and have a wonderful afternoon.