



Serving children and adults with Down syndrome,  
autism and other developmental disabilities

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dr. Brian Skotko, Prominent Down syndrome Expert, to Be Honored at ACDS Annual Gala**

*In Recognition of His Research and Advocacy for  
Those with Down syndrome and Other Developmental Disabilities*

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**Long Island, NY, October 7, 2014** — Dr. Brian Skotko, a renowned medical geneticist and Co-Director of the Down Syndrome Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, will be honored at the ACDS Annual Gala, to be held at the Garden City Hotel on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

ACDS provides lifelong resources to individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities. This year's "Up, Up and Away" Gala theme highlights the abilities of those with developmental disabilities and the endless possibilities they can achieve. The festivities will begin with a cocktail hour at 7:00 pm, followed by dinner, the presentation to Dr. Skotko and dancing, as well as live and silent fundraising auctions. Carolina Leid of WABC Eyewitness News will emcee the event.

Inspired by his sister Kristin, who has Down syndrome, Dr. Skotko has dedicated his medical career to helping children with cognitive and developmental disabilities. He has conducted major research on several Down syndrome-related topics, including a study in 2005 that was introduced in the U.S. Congress as bipartisan legislation, calling for \$25 million in funding for the implementation of prenatal and postnatal support services for mothers of children with Down syndrome.

Dr. Skotko has co-authored numerous articles and books on Down syndrome, including the award-winning *Common Threads: Celebrating Life with Down Syndrome* and *Fasten Your Seatbelt: A Crash Course on Down Syndrome for Brothers and Sisters*. He has appeared on ABC-TV's *Good Morning America* and NPR's *On Point* radio show, and has been featured in prominent national publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. Dr. Skotko is also a frequent lecturer who speaks to families, educators and healthcare professionals on a range of topics related to Down syndrome and has presented at conferences hosted by ACDS.

Dr. Skotko serves on the Professional Advisory Council for the National Down Syndrome Congress, the Professional Advisory Committee for the National Center for Prenatal and Postnatal Down Syndrome Resources, and the Board of Directors of the Band of Angels Foundation, which seeks to advance an understanding of Down syndrome and autism.

Dr. Skotko is certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics. He is a graduate of Duke University, Harvard Medical School, and the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. He completed his fellowship at Children’s Hospital in Boston and his residency at Boston Medical Center.

“Dr. Skotko is admired for his pioneering research and relentless advocacy by everyone in the Down syndrome community—individuals, their families, physicians and researchers,” says ACDS Executive Director Michael M. Smith. “We are so pleased to acknowledge Dr. Skotko’s contributions to help those with Down syndrome reach their full potential, live a rewarding life, and become fully accepted and integrated into society. As the ‘Up, Up and Away’ theme of our Gala shows, there’s really no limit to what those with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities can achieve. The possibilities are endless.”

“Having personally visited ACDS before, I am impressed by all their good works,” says Dr. Skotko. “They provide an amazing diversity and continuity of programs and services, helping those with Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities to reach their true potential and lead fulfilling lives. I am truly please to be honored at their Annual Gala.”

For more information on the Annual Gala, contact Laurie Schaefer, ACDS, at 516.933.4700 x 124.

### **ABOUT ACDS**

Located in Plainview, NY, ACDS is dedicated to providing lifetime resources of exceptional quality, innovation and inclusion for individuals with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. ACDS currently serves over 1,000 children and adults with services that include Early Intervention and preschool special education programs; respite and recreation programs for children, teens and adults; adult Medicaid service coordination; and eight supervised group homes in Nassau County. ACDS has provided programs and services in Long Island since 1966. For more information, please visit [www.acds.org](http://www.acds.org) or call 516-933-4700.

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