The Guthrie-Koch PKU Scholarship

This higher education scholarship program honors the memory of Dr. Robert Guthrie and Dr. Richard Koch, two remarkable men who shaped the course of PKU diagnosis and treatment. The scholarship program was started by National PKU News after Dr. Guthrie's death in June 1995. When Dr. Koch died in September 2011, we added his name to the program. The first scholarships were awarded for the 1998-99 academic year.

History of the scholarship program: Dr. Guthrie developed the newborn screening test for phenylketonuria (PKU) in 1961. He then worked tirelessly for more than thirty years to establish newborn screening programs in the US and many other countries. Every family of a child with PKU born after the mid-1960's in a country where newborn screening is done has reaped the benefits: more than 20,000 of their children have been saved from devastating mental retardation caused by untreated PKU. Early screening and a special diet have allowed these young people to grow up normally and lead full, productive lives.

Dr. Richard Koch, a long-time colleague and friend of Dr. Guthrie, died on September 24, 2011. We decided to honor him by adding his name to the scholarship program. Dr. Koch dedicated his entire career of more than 50 years to identify, treat and help find a cure for PKU. His work was always at the forefront of PKU treatment and research. Dr. Koch was the principal investigator on two large collaborative studies on PKU children and maternal PKU that forever changed how PKU was treated. He also lobbied tirelessly for newborn screening for PKU. He dedicated his life to PKU and never stopped working for the cause that he believed in. He was also a kind and caring physician who gave his "all" for PKU patients and their families.

There is no question that young people with PKU bound for higher education programs owe this opportunity to early screening and treatment. Without early PKU identification, they could be living in institutions or group homes for the retarded instead of planning to attend college or technical school. It seemed fitting to establish a scholarship program in memory of Dr. Guthrie, whose test made their achievements possible, and to add Dr. Koch's name when he died, a beloved leader in PKU treatment and research.

From its start in 1989, Dr. Guthrie was a member of the Board of Directors of National PKU News and Dr. Koch was a consultant to National PKU News for medical issues. National PKU News is a nonprofit organization devoted to bringing news and other information to families living with PKU. Beyond their single-minded dedication to preventing the mental retardation caused by PKU through screening and proper treatment, throughout their lives, Dr. Guthrie and Dr. Koch were devoted advocates for families living with it. National PKU News was started with the strong support and encouragement of both of these amazing men.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE
Scholarships are open to any young person with PKU who is on the diet and about to attend or already attending a college, university, or technical school at the undergraduate level (graduate students are not eligible for the awards). Residents of any country may apply, but the application and letters of recommendation must be in understandable English and an English translation of the transcripts must made if they are in another language. Applicants must be accepted to an accredited college, university or technical school before the scholarship is awarded, but may apply for the scholarship before acceptance is confirmed.

WHO WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS
A scholarship committee will review all applications. The committee consists of well-known PKU professionals and Guthrie and Koch family members.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Applications for The Guthrie-Koch PKU Scholarships and merit awards are accepted annually. Competed applications must be postmarked by February 15 each year for scholarships awarded for the following academic year.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS
The Guthrie-Koch PKU Scholarship committee will consider the following factors for each applicant (not necessarily ranked in order of importance):
• academic records
• educational/career goals
• the applicant's statement
• letters of recommendation
• extracurricular activities and volunteer work
• financial need (financial need will be considered, but is not crucial. You can be awarded a scholarship without having significant financial need)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST
☐ Online application including personal statement, submitted online. You must then PRINT the PDF copy you receive and send it with the other items below.

☐ Transcripts of academic records
Academic transcripts are to be sent from the school to the applicant, using the request form provided, and then enclosed with the completed application.

☐ Three letters of recommendation (request form and details included below)
Letters of recommendation should be from instructors, college staff, employers, etc. (do not ask friends, relatives, or classmates). Letters of recommendation, using the form provided, are also to be sent to the applicant, in a sealed envelope, and enclosed with the completed application.

☐ A letter from the PKU treatment physician.

☐ A recent color photo

All of the above must be sent to the following address by February 15th.
NATIONAL PKU NEWS / GUTHRIE-KOCH PKU SCHOLARSHIP
PO Box 43552, MONTCLAIR, NJ 07073
GUTHRIE-KOCH
PKU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete all questions, printing (or typing) neatly and clearly in blue or black ink. If a question does not apply to you, please indicate N.A.

Selection of a recipient for the scholarship will be influenced by completeness of reply, neatness and legibility of application. Sorry, we cannot consider incomplete or illegible applications.

Please mail completed application, postmarked by February 15, to:

The Guthrie-Koch PKU Scholarship
c/o National PKU News
PO Box 43552
Montclair, NJ 07043

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name: ___________________________  Last Name: ___________________________

Birthdate________________________________

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS

___________________________________________________________________
street address

___________________________________________________________________
city                          state                 zip

___________________________________________________________________
country

Permanent telephone number ___________________________

E-mail address ___________________________

Attach a recent photo here. Do not staple; attach with tape on the back so the photo can be easily removed as needed. If you win an award, this will likely be the photo used in the online story about you, so choose your photo with that in mind. It must be in COLOR.
Other mailing address & telephone number (for example, at school):

________________________________________________________________________
street address

________________________________________________________________________
city state zip

________________________________________________________________________
country

Please give dates this address may be used: ____________________________

PKU HISTORY
Approximate age (in days or weeks) when your PKU was diagnosed __________________
Have you ever been off the diet? (give dates if yes) ____________________________
Average blood phe level in past 2 years (mg/dl or μmol/L) ________________________
This is the average of how many blood specimens? ____________________________
How will your PKU medical formula be paid for during your academic career? __________

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

OTHER INFORMATION

PARENTS' OCCUPATIONS
Father: ________________________
Mother: ________________________
Of which country are you a citizen? _________________________________________
If not a U.S. citizen, are you a permanent resident of the US? _____ yes _____ no
Have you applied for, or are you receiving, other financial aid (scholarships, loans, grants)?
_____ yes _____ no
If yes, give details (name of program, amount requested/granted, etc.) ____________________

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic goals: ____ bachelor's degree    ____ master's degree
____ doctoral degree    ____ law degree    ____ medical degree
____ other

Expected major/minor

If vocational/technical school, name of job-related program

School you expect/hope to be attending:

name

street address

city state zip

Other schools you are considering (name only):

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Previous Year's Total Gross Income, Earnings, and Benefits (from federal income tax return). Enter in U.S. currency (use current exchange rate if a non-U.S. citizen)

Parent's Income (if you are a dependent, or receive substantial financial help from them)

$____________________

Applicant's personal income

$_______________ (whether or not you are a dependent)

Do you support yourself? ____________________________________________

Number of children in the family and ages ____________________________

If you or your family have unusual circumstances, such as PKU medical expenses not covered by insurance, unusual non-PKU medical or dental expense not covered by insurance, a family member...
who is a dislocated worker, or other unusual circumstances that affect your financial status, please describe below:

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
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This information will be held in strictest confidence. Applicant's signature below indicates that the above financial information is true and complete to the best of your knowledge. (If asked for proof of the information, proof may include a copy of your income tax return.)

____________________________________________________________
Signature

Please rate your need for a college scholarship. A "1" indicates without assistance you will not be able to attend college and "7" indicates no particular financial need:

1  2  3  4  5  6  7

List any previous educational experience post-high school:

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<th>Name and Location of School</th>
<th>Dates Attended</th>
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<th>Financial Aid?</th>
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**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT**

This is a very important part of the application. Through your words, please "paint a portrait" of yourself for the scholarship committee. Please carefully review it for typographical and spelling errors before sending it, and use your best English composition skills!
On separate paper, typed, please write a narrative/essay about yourself, including each of the numbered topics below. NOTE: Your answer to #3, as you are describing a number of activities, can be presented as an outline, but does not have to be. However, even if you do an outline, commentary about each of the activities is still helpful in giving the committee a more complete understanding about your involvement, so please add more details about an activity when you think it would be helpful. Be specific in your answers.

Your statement should be no longer than seven typed pages, double-spaced. Your statement should include the topics listed below. PLEASE GIVE EACH TOPIC THE SUBHEAD LISTED IN BOLD TYPE.

1) Why I am Applying for the Scholarship: Describe why you are applying for the scholarship.

2) My Educational Objectives and Career Plans: Describe your educational objective(s) and career plans, if known, and what factors/interests have led you in this direction.

3) My School and Community Activities: Describe your extracurricular activities, such as on-campus student activities, family activities, community activities, clubs, student offices held, sports activities, involvement in musical groups, any involvement you have had with PKU-related activities, etc. Please include any comments you have about these activities and their importance in your life.

4) Honors and Awards I have Received: List and describe any honors and awards you have received, academic or otherwise.

5) My Work History: If you are currently employed, state your employer’s name, the type of work you do and the hours you work per week or month. Describe any significant work you have done in the recent past but are not currently engaged in.

6) Diet Summary: Describe your current diet in some detail, and how you cope with it on a daily basis, both at school and at home. 7) My Overall Experience and Attitudes about PKU. As accurately and articulately as possible, please describe your overall experience with PKU, your attitudes toward the PKU diet both now and in the past, and what influence PKU has had on your life. Please include any pertinent information about your family or clinic and how they have helped you deal with PKU. (Please expand on your thoughts as much as possible).

Please put your completed application, including transcripts, test scores, and letters of recommendation, in a large envelope. All material must be included in the single envelope (not sent separately from various individuals, unless by prior arrangement).

Send to: National PKU News, PO Box 43552, Montclair, NJ 07043. The application must be postmarked by FEBRUARY 15 unless you have special circumstances that you have discussed with Virginia Schuett, Chairperson of the Guthrie-Koch Scholarship Committee; contact her at info@pkunews.org, or tel: 206-525-8140 well in advance of the deadline.
The above named student is applying for an academic scholarship. Please assist the selection committee by checking the appropriate responses below:

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How strongly do you recommend this student for a scholarship? Please circle a number.

1  2  3  4  5  6  7
(lowest)          (highest)

On a separate sheet of paper, please state how long and in what capacity you have known this student (through school class, employment, etc.). Elaborate on any characteristics of the student listed above, giving any anecdotes that demonstrate your point. Please include any other pertinent information you feel will assist the selection committee in evaluating this student for a scholarship. We prefer this letter to be typed. Thank you for your assistance!

If the student wins a Guthrie-Koch PKU Scholarship, I agree to have selected comments from my recommendation published on pkunews.org (any story will be based on the entirety of this application and a draft will be sent to the winner for review prior to printing; all names of references will be omitted and identifying characteristics will be minimized).

Please sign:  ________________________________________________________________

Name:  ________________________________________________________________

Institution name/city/state:  ________________________________________________

Telephone Number:  _____________________ Email address:  ________________________

Please return this form to the applicant, in a sealed envelope with letterhead, by ___________.

(date requested by applicant)
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Telephone Number:  _____________________ Email address:  __________________

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(date requested by applicant)
REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT AND COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST SCORES

Name of School

Address

Student’s Name

Permanent Address

Student’s Date of Birth

Student’s Signature

Date

Please send a copy of the OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS and COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST SCORES in a sealed envelope along with this form directly to the applicant for inclusion in the application form, by ________________________________
(date requested by student)

Your year in school for which the scholarship will be applied: ____________