



Tracy Dixon-Salazar

Executive Director, Lennon-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation

Nominated by Julie Zatzabal

Dr. Tracy Dixon-Salazar is an extraordinary figure who demonstrates immense devotion and compassion in caring for patients, specifically those suffering from Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS). As the Executive Director of the LGS Foundation, her personal experience with her daughter, Savannah, fuels her dedication to patient support. She goes above the call of duty to provide aid and comfort not only to her daughter to all LGS patients she interacts with, making their lives easier and providing them with much-needed emotional support.

In her role at the LGS Foundation, Tracy is committed to making a difference for LGS patients and their families. She works tirelessly to connect specialty patients with the right resources, support, and services. Understanding the challenges faced by these families face with her own experiences, she works relentlessly to eliminate the roadblocks they often encounter, such as access to appropriate care, information, and emotional support.

Her dedication to caregiving is evident in her educational journey as well. To understand her daughter's condition, Tracy embarked on a 12-year educational journey and achieved a PhD in Neurobiology. On top of her duties as a caregiver and a mother, Tracy made time for school powered by the desire to brighten the futures of those affected by LGS. She turned her family's struggle into a mission to understand the scientific basis of epilepsy to help other families. This unyielding pursuit of knowledge exemplifies her commitment to patient care.

Moreover, her scientific research led to a breakthrough in her daughter's condition. Recognizing Savannah's genetic mutations linked to calcium channels, Tracy introduced a calcium-blocking drug to her treatment, reducing her seizure frequency significantly. The development of this life-saving medication exemplifies her proactive approach to patient care, exploring all avenues to alleviate the suffering of those living with LGS. Not only did she change the course of her daughter's life, but her findings potentially provide a new path for the treatment of others with similar genetic predispositions.

Dr. Tracy Dixon-Salazar is a determined advocate for patients with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome. Through her leadership as the Executive Director at the LGS Foundation, she has strived to increase awareness of the condition, promote research, and advocate for better resources for patients and their families.

Her advocacy work is deeply rooted in her personal experiences, giving it a genuine sense of urgency and empathy. Her dedication to finding a cure for LGS has turned her into a beacon of hope for many families facing the same hardships. She uses her scientific background to push for better research into LGS and potential treatments.

Tracy's perspective from her daughter's journey with LGS offers a profoundly personal account of the challenges patients and caregivers face. Her experience is a powerful tool for advocacy, shedding light on the realities of this condition, stimulating empathy and understanding, and mobilizing resources within the specialty pharmacy community.

NASP 2023 Caregiver of the Year Award Winning Nomination



Dr. Tracy Dixon-Salazar is the epitome of the caregiver who goes above and beyond emotional support, alleviate burdens, and champion the needs of specialty pharmacy patients. Her extraordinary devotion, compassion, and advocacy for patients living with LGS make her a deserving candidate for the Caregiver of the Year Award.