

DDR and Epidemic Answers Join Forces June, 2013

Almost 20 years ago, four practical women met over coffee to discuss their concerns about the growing numbers of children with special needs. One, a mother of a child with a pervasive developmental disorder suggested that we start a registry. DDR was born.

In 2011 a new generation of warrior moms founded Epidemic Answers, a non-profit with the same mission. Beth Lambert and Michelle Tortora, mothers of children with significant food allergies, gut dysbiosis and immune dysregulation were determined to figure out why their kids were so sick, heal them, and help others from sliding down the slippery slope.

Last month we met, and today I am announcing that these two powerhouses are working to become one voice. Our partnership will be finalized this year.

While much has changed, as we gradually learn how risk factors accumulate to cause a child to regress into autism, little has altered in how we approach childhood illness. As pediatricians continue to over-prescribe antibiotics, and parents of children on the spectrum deplete their bank accounts to pay for services not covered by insurance, the numbers continue to rise astronomically.

Now, instead of one in 1500 kids seen only a decade ago, we are looking at one in about 100. Everyone knows someone with autism; it is visible in every state and country around the globe.

The [DDR website](#) has over 400 articles archived from almost 15 years of newsletters. Books by DDR co-founders [Patricia Lemer](#), [Kelly Dorfman](#), and Epidemic Answers Co-founder, [Beth Lambert](#) are guides for parents and professionals. Soon, a documentary film, *Canary Kids* will follow sick kids through the healing process.

Watch your mailbox for updates on our partnership, my new book to be released later this year, and for fund-raising efforts for the film. Celebrate this event with your [donations](#), and hope that in 20 more years, none of this will be necessary! In the meantime, eat your greens!

Patty