



# NEWS

**Application deadlines coming soon for several special FARA grant awards. Apply for one of these highly-regarded awards.**

The Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) invites proposals, under a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process, for several special FARA grant awards. These named awards honor a few of the unique individuals in the FA community who through their actions and legacy keep us focused on FARA's mission and goal – marshalling and focusing the resources needed to advance research through collaboration and partnership toward treatments and a cure for FA. We encourage you to review these funding opportunities carefully and consider applying for one of these grant awards.

For more detailed information on each RFA, including guidelines and submission instructions go to <http://www.curefa.org/types-of-grants.html#named>

**The Bronya J. Keats Award for International Collaboration in Research on Friedrich's Ataxia**

Program Objectives/Criteria: The Bronya J. Keats Award for International Collaboration in Research on Friedrich's Ataxia will be given on an annual basis to investigators performing high-quality, promising Friedrich's ataxia research that relies on international collaboration among scientists.

All awards will be to grant proposals that feature key contributions from investigators in at least two countries. Special consideration will be given to grants that:

- Bring new scientists to the FA community – either new investigators or experienced scientists from related disciplines that bring new insights or technologies to FA.
- Focus on genetic basis of, or mitochondrial dysfunction in FA.
- Address needs of special FA populations (such as individuals with point mutations, Acadian population, etc.).

We anticipate funding one, one-year award, under this program. The total award is limited to \$50,000 (direct costs only).

Timeline:

- Application/Proposal due date: July 1st, 2011
- Award announcement: September 1st 2011
- Grant start date: September 15th, 2011

### **2011 Phillip Bennett and Kyle Bryant Translational Research Awards**

Program Objectives/Criteria: Proposals should be for pre-clinical/translational or clinical research focused on Friedreich's ataxia with aims targeting one or more of the following:

- Identification of biomarkers for FA that will elucidate disease variability, severity, and prognosis; facilitate drug screening, and/or optimize selection of patients and clinical endpoints for clinical trials.
- Development of animal or cellular models that permit further evaluation of candidate therapeutics
- Development of tools and technologies that can be directly used for therapy development. Examples include novel gene therapy vectors, genetically-modified cells, drug delivery devices, etc... These tools or technologies should overcome existing obstacles to treatment and be capable of being directly applied to, or adapted for, delivery of potential therapeutics.
- Pre-clinical development and testing of potential targets, biologics, and devices in cells and animals
- Clinical studies of patient outcome measures, potential interventions, or devices

We anticipate funding two one-year awards under this program. The total award is limited to \$120,000 (direct costs only) for each.

Timeline:

- Letter of intent: July 1st 2011
- Application/Proposal due date: August 1st 2011
- Award announcement: October 1st 2011
- Grant start date: October 15th, 2011

### **2011 Keith Michael Andrus Memorial Award**

As a tribute to Keith's legacy and to help improve the lives of others diagnosed with FA, the Keith Michael Andrus Memorial Award has been established. This award is specifically designated for cardiac research.

Program Objectives: The award will be to a grant proposal that features key contributions toward understanding and/or treating the cardiac complications associated with FA. Proposals for basic, translational, and clinical research will be considered responsive to this RFA. For example:

- Exploring the underlying mechanisms of cardiac disease; e.g., testing hypotheses of mitochondrial dysfunction in FA that might lead to cardiac phenotype in patients;
- Clinical studies that further elucidate the cardiac phenotype, natural history and biomarkers, or
- Prospective treatment trials that will allow for the establishment of informed treatment recommendations.

We anticipate funding one one-year award under this program. The total award is limited to \$75,000 (direct costs only).

Timeline:

- Application/Proposal due date: Sept 1st, 2011
- Award announcement: November 1st 2011
- Grant start date: November 15th, 2011

### **New Investigator Award**

New Investigator Grants Proposals are accepted twice a year March 1st and September 1st then awards are announced June 1st and December 1st.

Program Objectives: We believe in welcoming, mentoring and supporting new scientists in the FA research community. This award is to support young investigators who are beginning their independent research careers and have a strong interest in pursuing research that advances knowledge and insights of FA. This award is also intended to support investigators from related fields of research who want to apply their knowledge and experience to a specific area of FA research. Proposals for basic, translational and clinical research will be considered responsive to this RFA.

Timeline:

- Application/Proposal due date: March 1st & Sept 1st, 2011
- Award announcement: June 1st & Dec 1st, 2011
- Grant start date: July 1st 2011 & January 1st, 2012

For more detailed information on each RFA, including guidelines and submission instructions go to <http://www.curefa.org/types-of-grants.html#named>

### **About FARA**

The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to accelerating research leading to treatments and a cure for Friedreich's ataxia. Please visit our website at [www.curefa.org](http://www.curefa.org).

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