



## News Release

### **Prominent Friedreich's ataxia spokesperson and advocate to participate in University of Minnesota study**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Matt DePoint, Academic Health Center, [612-625-4110](tel:612-625-4110), [mdepoint@umn.edu](mailto:mdepoint@umn.edu)

**Who:** Kyle Bryant, Ride Ataxia founder, speaker and Friedreich's ataxia patient

**What:** Friedreich's ataxia research study using Magnetic Resonance Imaging/Spectroscopy

**When:** Tuesday, July 23, 2013 from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Center for Magnetic Resonance Research, University of Minnesota, 2021 Sixth Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455

**What you'll see:** Study scan at CMRR and CMRR tour

**MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (July 18, 2013)** – The University of Minnesota's [Center for Magnetic Resonance Research](#) (CMRR) is hosting prominent Friedreich's ataxia spokesperson and patient Kyle Bryant and media are invited to a behind-the-scenes look at an ataxia research study.

Study co-principal investigators Isabelle Iltis, Ph.D. and Christophe Lenglet, Ph.D. will be available to answer questions about the study and provide a tour of CMRR's facilities.

"Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) is proud to fund the CMRR's research in Friedreich's ataxia. The CMRR is able to use new imaging technology to answer important questions about how the neurologic system is affected in Friedreich's ataxia and how the disease progresses," said Bryant. "I am looking forward to participating in the study and visiting CMRR."

#### **What is Friedreich's ataxia?**

[Friedreich's ataxia](#) (FA) is a rare debilitating, life-shortening, degenerative neuro-muscular disorder. About one in 50,000 people in the United States have Friedreich's ataxia.

#### **Why is this research important?**

Currently there is no cure for Friedreich's ataxia. Closer patient monitoring and information from the scans will be useful from a disease management perspective, and will also offer additional tools to test the effects of emerging treatments.

The study is being conducted in conjunction with the [Ataxia Center](#) at the University of Minnesota which provides specialized evaluation, testing and treatment for people with cerebellar ataxia and is supported by the Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center (BAARC).

#### **Who is Kyle Bryant and why is he participating in this study?**

Bryant is a well-known speaker and advocate in the Friedreich's ataxia community. As an athlete, Bryant has not let his physical limitations from Friedreich's ataxia derail his aspirations to raise awareness and funds for research. Bryant hopes that it will eventually help lead to a cure. The grant that makes this

research study possible was named after Bryant, and funded by the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA).

**Schedule:**

**Tuesday, July 23, 2013**

3:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Cervical Spinal Cord study

3:30 p.m. to 4:15 – Bryant/ Lenglet/Iltis available for questions

4:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – CMRR tour by Lenglet/Iltis

**For more information visit:**

[Kyle Bryant](#)

[Ride Ataxia](#)

[Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center](#) (BAARC)

[Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance](#) (FARA)

[University of Minnesota Ataxia Center](#)

[Institute for Translational Neuroscience](#) (ITN)

