

Dear Colleagues,

The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) would like to invite young investigators—graduate/medical students and post-doctoral fellows—to submit abstracts for the **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Friedreich's Ataxia Symposium** to be held on October 15-16, 2017 in King of Prussia, PA. This one-day symposium provides patients and families with up-to-date clinical information on therapeutic approaches and current research being conducted in the field of Friedreich's ataxia. We begin with a reception on the evening of Sunday, October 15, and talks throughout the day on Monday, October 16, 2017. Posters will be up throughout the meeting with specific poster sessions during the reception on the 15<sup>th</sup> and breakfast and lunch on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to share this information with young investigators in your lab who would benefit from gaining greater exposure to the FA community in addition to the experience of presenting their research data. The symposium agenda is attached below.

*The Symposium presents an opportunity to engage with the patient community as well as network with other investigators. We wish to give young investigators the opportunity to meet and interact with FA patient families and to recognize how their work directly impacts patients' lives while simultaneously giving the families more opportunity to learn about ongoing research.*

The conference planning committee will select **6** young investigators from the abstract submissions to offer travel scholarships, giving priority to the young investigator's ability to present information to a lay audience. FARA will sponsor the young investigators chosen to present and pay for their travel expenses (transportation & hotel). Prior to the Symposium, we will host an informational Webinar to discuss plans for the poster presentation and best practices for presenting to a lay audience as well as logistics for travel and the events.

Awardees are also invited and encouraged to participate in **Ride Ataxia Philly**, FARA's marquee cycling fundraiser for all abilities, to be held in the morning on Sunday, October 15, in Blue Bell, PA. Non-cyclists are welcome to volunteer or participate in the festivities and lunch. [www.rideataxia.org/philly](http://www.rideataxia.org/philly)

### **Timeline**

July 24 – Aug 18, 2017: Call for Abstracts – **Return enclosed submission form by Aug 18.**

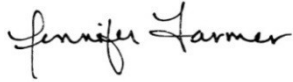
August 25, 2017: Notification of Awards

September 8, 2017: Webinar with Awardees

October 15-16, 2017: Ride Ataxia Philly and CHOP Friedreich's Ataxia Symposium

Please contact me at [jen.farmer@curefa.org](mailto:jen.farmer@curefa.org) or 484-879-6160 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Farmer  
Executive Director

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Friedreich's Ataxia Symposium  
Program • Monday, Oct. 16, 2017**

7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8 a.m. Welcome and Introduction, David R. Lynch, MD, PhD

8:05 a.m. FRDA: from basic science to clinical features, David R. Lynch, MD, PhD

8:45 a.m. FARA programs and FRDA treatment pipeline, Jennifer M. Farmer, MS, CGC

9:15 a.m. Identification of p38 MAPK as a novel therapeutic target for FRDA, Robert B. Wilson, MD, PhD

9:45 a.m. The Future of Fashion: Mainstream Adaptive Clothing, Mindy Scheier

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Center of Excellence Research Update  
Ian A. Blair, PhD  
Kimberly Y. Lin, MD  
Shana McCormick, MD, MTR

11:30 a.m. Q&A

12 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Activating Frataxin Expression with Synthetic Oligonucleotides, David Corey, PhD

1:45 p.m. Developing Gene Delivery Vehicles for Widespread Frataxin Expression in Brain and Beyond, Ben Deverman, PhD

2:15 p.m. Q&A

2:45 p.m. Break

3 p.m. Global FRDA Community and RideATAXIA Europe  
Anabella Saraiva, Kyle Bryant, Robert B. Wilson, MD, PhD

3:30 p.m. Open Q&A - General Questions

4 p.m. Adjourn