



**FARA hosts Friedreich's ataxia Cardiac Summit, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010, in Philadelphia.**

FARA has convened a summit of a world-class cardiac panel. This meeting will bring together a well-regarded, specialized team of 25 researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates who will focus on the following objectives:

- Plan prospective studies that will document the natural history of cardiac disease in FA.
- Plan prospective treatment trials that will allow for the establishment of informed treatment recommendations.
- Establish criteria for approaches to advanced therapy (Left Ventricular Assist Devices, Heart Transplant, etc.) to treat patients with rapidly progressive and/or severe cardiomyopathy.
- Establish hypotheses and a plan for understanding how mitochondrial dysfunction in FA might lead to cardiac phenotype in patients – underlying mechanisms of disease.
- Attract new investigators interested in both basic and clinical research to focus on cardiac disease in FA.

Contributions to the Keith Michael Andrus Memorial Fund have made it possible for FARA to announce funding for a specific cardiac research award which will support the advancement of this critical area.