



Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Global Ataxia Advocacy Organizations Unite to Host
International Ataxia Research Conference in Washington, DC**

November 11, 2019, Downingtown, PA- On November 14th-16th, the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA US), Ataxia UK, fara (Australia), and GoFar (Italy) will host the International Ataxia Research Conference (IARC) in Washington DC. The IARC will be a comprehensive scientific review of new research into ataxias, covering topics from the molecular basis of disease to potential therapeutic treatments and clinical trials. The conference will include Friedreich's ataxia (FA) and other recessive ataxias, dominant ataxias and autoimmune ataxias.

"As FARA was being established, we asked our scientific director what we should do first to advance FA research, 'Get us (the scientists) together,' he said, 'it's never been done.' This week's conference is real testimony to the wisdom of that advice and to the power of partnership and collaboration that was spawned at the resulting first International Scientific Conference on FA we held in 1999," said FARA President and Co-founder Ron Bartek. "The first meeting consisted of 65 academic investigators from around the world and 15 National Institutes of Health scientists. Only one other patient advocacy organization participated and no pharmaceutical companies attended. We are excited to welcome, along with our co-hosts, over 430 meeting attendees to this IARC."

The more than 430 meeting attendees from 21 countries will consist of academic, clinical and industry researchers with an interest in ataxia research and drug development as well as representatives from 17 global ataxia advocacy groups. Academic researchers will make up more than half of the attendees and industry researchers comprise one-third of attendees.

The co-hosting organizations Ataxia UK, fara Australia and GoFar are also looking forward to coming together as global advocates to further translate these research advances into treatments. "Ataxia UK is delighted to be collaborating once again with FARA and our other international advocacy partners in holding this conference," said Ataxia UK, CEO Sue Millman, "This is an exciting time for ataxia research and we look forward to hearing about recent results, and prospects for treatments and cures for these devastating conditions."

"A conference like this breaks down barriers, encourages collaboration and takes us closer to a cure for FA" said Peter Evans Chairman, fara Australia.

Mina Ruggieri Co-Founder of GoFAR added, "We hope that the renewed effort of GoFAR and our international advocacy partners in co-hosting the third edition of IARC, will push the scientific community towards an effective treatment for FA."

The session topics will include translation of basic science into therapies, neurophysiology, and the cerebellum, mechanisms of disease, therapeutic approaches and drug discovery, genetics of disease cellular and animal models of disease, natural history, biomarkers and endpoints, and clinical trials and clinical trial design.

The 2019 IARC will take place at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC. To learn more, please visit iarc2019.org.

ABOUT FARA

The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) is a national, public, 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the pursuit of scientific research leading to treatments and a cure for Friedreich's ataxia.

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