

July 29, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The Friedrich'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 **9th Annual Friedrich's Ataxia Symposium** to be held on October 16-17, 2016 in King of Prussia, PA. The symposium will include a reception on the evening of Sunday, October 16, and talks throughout the day on Monday, October 17, 2016. Posters will be up throughout the meeting with specific poster sessions during the reception on the 16th and breakfast and lunch on the 17th. 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 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 16, in Blue Bell, PA. Non-cyclists are welcome to volunteer or participate in the festivities and lunch. www.rideataxia.org/philly

Timeline

July 29 – Aug 19, 2016: Call for Abstracts – **Return enclosed submission form by Aug 19.**

August 26, 2016: Notification of Awards

September 9, 2016: Webinar with Awardees

October 16-17, 2016: Ride Ataxia Philly and CHOP Friedrich's Ataxia Symposium

Please contact me at jen.farmer@curefa.org or 484-879-6160 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Farmer
Executive Director