

# What is Friedreich's Ataxia (FA)?

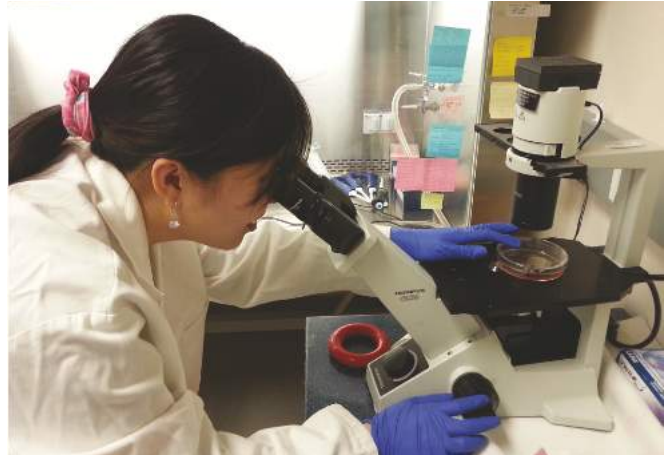
## N. (*frē-dricks ah-tax-ē-ah*)

**Friedreich's ataxia (FA)** is a debilitating multi-system disease affecting 5,000 people in the US and 15,000 worldwide. 1 in 100 people are carriers of the FA gene. What begins as difficulty with balance and coordination progresses over a short period of time to a life altering loss of mobility, energy, speech and hearing. FA also presents serious risk of diabetes and life shortening cardiac disease.

As of today, there is no treatment or cure.

Symptoms of Friedreich's ataxia include:

- Loss of coordination in arms and legs
- Energy deprivation and muscle loss
- Severe scoliosis (spinal curvature)
- Diabetes
- Impaired vision, hearing and speech
- Cardiomyopathy and arrhythmia



## Who is FARA?

### The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)

**FARA** is a national, public, 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to curing Friedreich's ataxia (FA) through research.

#### **Mission:**

- to marshal and focus the resources and relationships needed to cure FA.

**FARA** funds and facilitates research to treat and cure FA through four areas of work:

- **Attracting and Facilitating Collaboration in the Community** - We assemble all the stakeholders - researchers, physicians, patient families, industry and government partners - to share insights, new research and build partnerships that unite us as one well-aligned and stronger FA community.
- **Deploying Financial Resources** - We deploy financial resources through a competitive, peer reviewed research grant program as well as FARA directed research. Last year, \$6M in research funding was deployed across more than 30 projects.
- **Creating Domain Resources** - We build resources that help advance all therapies in the field, such as the FA Global Patient Registry, the FA-Integrated Clinical Database, and bio and cell repositories.
- **Sharing Knowledge and Know How** - We believe that sharing the knowledge from our grant program, research conferences, academic and industry partners, and patient families optimizes our pace and makes efficient use of resources.

### How to support FARA

Your support allows us to sustain and increase our investment in these critical areas of work today, so we may ensure a future for our patient families without the devastation of FA.

Thank you for being an active partner in our effort to treat and cure Friedreich's ataxia.

If you would like to make a gift to FARA, please visit [curefa.org/donate](https://curefa.org/donate)



Advancing Research into Treatments for Friedreich's Ataxia

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