

# FA SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

OCTOBER 12, 2026

- 7:30 AM ● **Registration + Breakfast**  
*Freedom Foyer*
- 7:30 AM ● **New Attendee Breakfast**  
*Independence Ballroom*
- 8:30 AM ● **Welcome**  
*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Jen Farmer, MS**, Chief Executive Officer, FARA
- 8:45 AM ● **Managing FA Together: Clinical Insights for Patients and Families**  
*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Kimberly Lin, MD**, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiology and Medical Director, Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Program, Perelman School of Medicine at the *University of Pennsylvania* and *The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*  
  
**David Lynch, MD, PhD**, Attending Physician, Division of Neurology, *The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia* and Director of the Friedreich's Ataxia Program; Professor of Neurology and Co-Director, *FA Center of Excellence at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*  
  
**Shana McCormack, MD, MTR**, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine, *University of Pennsylvania*; Scientific Director, Neuroendocrine Center in the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, *The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*  
  
**Sonal Sharma, MD**, Attending Physician, Division of Neurology, Mitochondrial Medicine Frontier Program, *The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*; Assistant Professor of Neurology, Perelman School of Medicine, *University of Pennsylvania*
- 9:45 AM ● **BREAK – MORNING REFRESHMENTS**
- 10:00 AM ● **FA Drug Development Pipeline Update and Q&A Panel 1**  
*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Moderated by Liz Soragni, PhD**, Chief Scientific Officer, FARA  
**Representatives from:** Biogen, Design Therapeutics, Graviton BioScience, and PTC Therapeutics
- 11:00 AM ● **The Power of FA Patient Advocacy**  
*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Berkley Bell, MPA**, Advocacy Program Coordinator, FARA

11:15 AM • **Individuals with FA Group Photo**  
*Outside Front Entrance of Hotel*

11:45 AM • **Breakout Sessions – Choose One**

1 **Basics of Gene Therapies and Gene Therapy Clinical Trials**

LIVE STREAMED  
for virtual participants

*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Kellyn Madden, MS**, Director of Patient Engagement, FARA

2 **Recalibrating You: Investing in Your Mental, Relational, and Social Health**

*Independence Ballroom*  
**Beth Hamilton, MSW, LSW**

3 **Parents and Caregivers: Connecting Through Experience and Learnings**

*Ground Floor Meeting Spaces*  
**Moderated by Maureen Juip, Debra Simpson, and Norm Simpson**

12:45 PM • **LUNCH**

1:45 PM • **Living with FA Panel: Progression, Resilience, and Redefining What's Possible**

*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Moderated by Kyle Bryant**, Director of rideATAXIA and Spokesperson, FARA  
**Hasitha Illa, Tomáš Pik, Tricia Herman-Maul, Krissa Lazaropoulos**

2:45 PM • **BREAK**

3:00 PM • **FA Drug Development Pipeline Update and Q&A Panel 2**

*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Moderated by Jennifer Farmer, MS**, Chief Executive Officer, FARA  
**Representatives from:** Larimar Therapeutics, Lexeo Therapeutics, Neurocrine Biosciences, and Solid Biosciences

4:00 PM • **New Science in FA**

*Freedom Ballroom*  
**Intro by Jennifer Farmer, MS**, Chief Executive Officer, FARA  
**Elizabeth Mercado-Ayon, PhD**, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia / University of Pennsylvania  
**Carla Pernaci, PhD**, University of California San Diego  
**Hui Zhong, PhD**, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

4:30 PM • **Closing Remarks**

*Freedom Ballroom*

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