

Dear Colleagues,

The Friedreich'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 **12th Annual Friedreich's Ataxia Symposium** to be held on October 13-14, 2019 in King of Prussia, PA. The symposium will include a reception on the evening of Sunday, October 13, and talks throughout the day on Monday, October 14, 2019. Posters will be up throughout the meeting with specific poster sessions during the reception on the 13th and breakfast and lunch on the 14th. 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.

We realize that the timing of this patient symposium is close to the International Ataxia Research Conference, www.iarc2019.org. We will accept the same abstract submissions to both meetings as the audience for each meeting is different.

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 13, in Blue Bell, PA. Non-cyclists are welcome to volunteer or participate in the festivities and lunch. www.rideataxia.org/philly

Timeline

June 3rd – July 15th, 2019: Call for Abstracts – **Return enclosed submission form by July 15th.**

August 7, 2019: Notification of Awards

August 21, 2019: Webinar with Awardees

October 13-14, 2019: Ride Ataxia Philly and CHOP Friedreich's Ataxia Symposium

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

Sincerely,



Jennifer Farmer
Executive Director