

PRESS RELEASE

FRAXA RESEARCH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS SECOND ANNUAL FALL FLING: A NATIONWIDE GRASSROOTS EVENT RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO CURE FRAGILE X -- THE MOST COMMON INHERITED CAUSE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND LEARNING DISABILITIES, AND THE LEADING KNOWN CAUSE OF AUTISM:

In celebration of a resolution currently in the House of Representatives declaring October 5th as "National Fragile X Research Day," people everywhere across the country are holding events to raise money for research and awareness about Fragile X Syndrome.

Fragile X causes an underproduction of a protein critical for mental development. It affects about 1 out of every 4,000 boys and 1 out of every 8,000 girls making it more common than muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis. One in every 267 women is a carrier, and 70% of fragile X children are born into families with no prior history of mental impairment. Fragile X results in mental impairment ranging from mild learning disabilities to severe mental retardation, and can also include seizures, aggressive outbursts, and severe anxiety. Fragile X is also the leading known cause of autism, accounting for 7-12% of all cases of autism.

FRAXA Research Foundation's Fall Fling on October 5th will include many different types of events that will be held in towns and cities across America. Families around the country have volunteered to organize events of their choosing in support of this important day. The events being organized range from letter writing campaigns to elaborate dinner/dances. It's an effort to bring much needed awareness to the public's attention and to raise funds to support Fragile X research.

Although Fragile X is prevalent, it is unknown to most people. Finding an effective cure or treatment for this disorder needs to be a priority since the research could likely benefit other disorders as well such as autism, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and schizophrenia.

Katie Clapp, President of FRAXA Research Foundation (the largest private organization worldwide dedicated to supporting research to find a cure for Fragile X) said "There has been an explosion of exciting discoveries published by FRAXA-funded researchers in top journals over the past year. Armed with new knowledge about the cause of Fragile X, we are now funding the first ever clinical trial of a new medication, Ampakines, which may help people with Fragile X and autism learn more effectively."

FRAXA Research Foundation was founded in 1994 by 3 parents of children with Fragile X syndrome. FRAXA's goal is to accelerate research aimed at the treatment and cure of fragile X, by direct funding of promising research projects and by raising awareness of this disease. FRAXA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charity run by parents of children with Fragile X syndrome. Nobel Laureates Dr. James Watson and Dr. Eric Kandel are both FRAXA Research Foundation Scientific Advisors, and Dr. Kandel is also a FRAXA-funded investigator actively conducting research on Fragile X.

For more information, please contact Katie Clapp (978) 462-1866 or kclapp@fraxa.org or visit FRAXA's website at www.fraxa.org.