



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR ATAXIA RESEARCH (ICAR) TO TAKE PLACE IN MARCH 2022**

**Minneapolis, MN** (November 18, 2020) – The National Ataxia Foundation (NAF), the Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), and Ataxia UK are pleased to announce the date for the inaugural International Congress for Ataxia Research (ICAR) to be held at the Caribe Royale resort in Orlando, Florida, USA on March 15th – 18th, 2022.

The Congress will combine the best of our organizations’ popular research meetings, including NAF’s Ataxia Investigators Meeting (AIM) and the International Ataxia Research Conference (IARC), co-led by FARA, Ataxia UK, GoFAR, and other partner organizations. ICAR will cover aspects of cerebellar function, neurodegeneration, and treatment of ataxias, and will provide ample opportunities to network, as well as interact with ataxia patients and families. Leading the scientific steering committee are Co-Chairs Stefan-M. Pulst, M.D., Dr. med., Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of Utah, USA, and Massimo Pandolfo, M.D., F.A.A.N., F.E.A.N., Professor of Neurology at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Hôpital Erasme, Belgium.

"I am extremely excited to co-chair this new ataxia meeting that will bring together clinicians and scientists from around the world and at all stages of their careers", says Professor Pulst. "The congress will cover diverse topics ranging from cerebellar function and imaging to novel therapies in sporadic and genetic ataxias".

As research on Ataxia continues to advance and pharmaceutical interest grows, international collaboration among patient advocacy groups, scientific and clinical researchers, and pharmaceutical companies is more critical than ever.

Professor Pandolfo states, "It is a great privilege to co-chair ICAR 2022, I expect exciting new developments in diagnosis, pathophysiology and particularly treatment. The meeting will be designed in order to maximize interaction, develop existing collaborations and prompt new ones."

NAF, FARA and Ataxia UK are thrilled to be working together to host what will undoubtedly be hailed as the conference to attend in 2022! ICAR information will be available at [ataxiacongress.org](http://ataxiacongress.org).

**About NAF:** NAF is a nonprofit organization established in 1957 to help persons with Ataxia and their families. The Foundation’s primary purpose is to support Ataxia research, provide vital programs and services for Ataxia families, and help in the search for a cure. NAF is the only organization in the United States dedicated to the disease that serves all types of Ataxia. NAF works closely with the world’s leading Ataxia researchers, promoting exchanges of ideas and innovation in Ataxia discovery.

**About FARA:** FARA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the pursuit of scientific research leading to treatments and a cure for Friedreich's ataxia. FARA's Mission is to marshal and focus the resources and relationships needed to cure FA by raising funds for research, promoting public awareness, and aligning scientists, patients, clinicians, government agencies, pharmaceutical companies and other organizations dedicated to curing FA and related diseases.

**About Ataxia UK:** Ataxia UK is the leading national charity in the UK supporting people affected by a range of ataxias. The charity actively promotes, facilitates and funds research into finding treatments and cures, and works collaboratively with numerous partners to drive research forwards. Ataxia UK also offers advice, information and support services to people affected by the ataxias.

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