

One Mission: End AHC! INSIDER'S EDGE

YOUR ALTERNATING HEMIPLEGIA OF CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER www.ahckids.org

MAY 2015

2000 Town Center ■ Suite 1900 ■ Southfield, Michigan 48075



Largest AHC Retrospective Genetic Study Published this Month

Progress in understanding AHC

On May 21, 2015, results from the largest AHC study ever undertaken were published by PLOS ONE as an open access article. The article is titled, "Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood: Retrospective Genetic Study and Genotype-Phenotype Correlations in 187 Subjects from the US AHCF Registry."

The paper is full of important information that is of the utmost significance to AHC patients and families. A few of the study findings are provided here to help begin our understanding of this ground breaking work.

Since mutations in ATP1A3 were first identified in 2012 in patients with AHC, the prevalence of mutations in sporadic patients meeting classic diagnostic criteria for AHC has ranged from 70% to 100% across a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

The 2 most common mutations, **D801N** and **E815K**, account for more than 60% of all ATP1A3 mutations resulting in an AHC Phenotype.

Despite a high rate of mutation detection in ATP1A3 in our study (82%), we did not identify mutations in all of the patients.

Our study shows an earlier age at disease onset and a significantly **higher incidence of status epilepticus** in the E815K mutation group.

Phenotype-genotype correlation from our analysis and others suggests that patients **with E815K mutations are at greater risk** of an acute clinical decompensation.

Prediction of the course and severity of the disease using genotype information is a major aim of genotypephenotype correlation studies. This information is essential for the evaluation of new therapeutics, to provide a more accurate prognosis to patients and caregivers, and to help develop the most appropriate guidelines for care management.

While the AHCF provided the majority of the funds for this study, this work is only possible through the generosity of the patients and families who have participated in these studies over nearly two decades.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS STUDY A REALITY

Please refer to the article for a full discussion of this work. It can be found at the following site: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0127045

International Collaboration Brings AHC Experts Together

AHC community is thankful for new study



To present the results of a genetic and clinical study of the largest AHC cohort ever reported requires the collaboration of a dedicated and hardworking group.

This study included 187 AHC patients enrolled since 1997 in the US AHC Foundation (AHCF) registry and biobank at the University of Utah. We wish to recognize everyone who helped on this project and acknowledge their dedication to our AHC community

Louis Viollet
Sandra P. Reyna
Eva Andermann
Mary E. Brunkow
Suzanne D. DeBrosse
Chad Huff
Richard J. Leventer
Louis J. Ptáček
Terry D. Sanger
Yue Zhang
Kathryn J. Swoboda

Gustavo Glusman
Matthew Sweney
Gyula Acsadi
Harry T. Chugani
David Galas
Lynn B. Jorde
Aga J. Lewelt
Jared C. Roach
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Mylynda B. Massart	N
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Rachel Tennyson	F
Winnie Xin	ŀ

Tara M. Newcomb Frederick Andermann Candida Brown Abigail Collins Lee Hood Bernie LaSalle Mario R. Mérida, II Francis Renault Peter Uldall Kenneth Silver

We wish to thank all of the clinicians, researchers, scientists, and doctors for their work on this study. We look forward to learning more about your current projects and wish you well on your future endeavors.



AHC Community Clinician and Researcher Changes Institutions

Dr. Kathryn Swoboda on the move

Kathryn J. Swoboda is the new Katherine B. Sims M.D. Endowed Chair in Neurogenetics and Director of the Neurogenetics Program at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Swoboda's research and clinical activities are dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of neurogenetic disorders, especially neuromuscular diseases and movement disorders with childhood-onset.

Dr. Swoboda has been a long-standing advocate for AHC patients and their families. For over two decades, she has helped the AHC community by attending AHCF Family Meetings, conducting AHC research, holding clinics with AHC patients, speaking at conferences, and meeting with members of the F.D.A.

Dr. Swoboda looks forward to continuing her work with the AHC community in her new position in Boston.

We wish Dr. Swoboda much success in her new position at Harvard Medical School!

AHC Community is Expanding

Leaders in AHC research circle the globe

Not so long ago, finding researchers familiar with AHC was extremely challenging. With the recent advancements in technology, it is now clear that AHC work is being done at highly prestigious and reputable institutions around the world.



Below is a list of institutions where the authors of the PLOS ONE article are currently affiliated.

- University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, Washington, USA
- Montreal Neurologic Institute and Hospital, McGill University, Montreal Quebec, Canada
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center and University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Hartford,
 Connecticut, USA
- University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, New York, USA
- Diablo Valley Child Neurology, an affiliate of Stanford Health Alliance, Pleasant Hill, California, USA
- Children's Hospital of Michigan, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, USA
- Palo Alto Medical Foundation Redwood City Clinic, Redwood City, California, USA
- Children's Hospital Colorado, University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, Colorado, USA
- Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
- Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute, Seattle, Washington, USA
- University of California San Diego, San Diego, California, USA
- The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, USA
- University College Dublin School of Medicine and Medical Science, Dublin, Ireland
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute, University of Melbourne
- The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, Parkville Victoria, Australia
- College of Medicine Jacksonville, University of Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, USA
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
- Stevens Henager College, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
- University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA
- University Of Virginia UVA health system, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA
- Hopital Armand Trousseau APHP, Paris, France
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Swedish Neuroscience Institute, Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, Washington, USA
- Juliane Marie Centre, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Children's Hospital Orange County, University of California, Orange, California, USA
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- University of Chicago and Comer Children's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Thank you to all of the institutions from around the world which support AHC research and the entire AHC community!





Simple Idea Helps Increase Fundraising Response Rate Significantly

When people receive something first, they are more likely to give.

Leading fundraising experts, Richard Perry and Jeff Schreifels, recently shared a great idea on how to increase the response rate to your requests for donations. Here is a simple idea everyone can use from their May 27th blog post, "Six Principles of Influence for Fundraising: #1 – Reciprocation."

Building on the writings of **Dr. Robert Cialdini**, who has written extensively about the ethical use of influence, Perry and Schreifels adapted one of his principles on reciprocation and applied it fundraising.

The reciprocation principle says that when a person does something first, others are more inclined to do something in return. Dr. Cialdini states that *you have to go first*. "Give something: give information, give free samples, give a positive experience..." In his application of this principle, Brady says "when people receive something first, they are more likely to give."

Social scientist Randy Garner published a 2005 experiment that tested whether sticky notes could persuade people to respond to a marketing survey. He sent a third of the surveys with a handwritten sticky note requesting completion, a third with a blank sticky note, and the final third without a sticky note.

The results? Handwritten note: 69% response rate. Blank sticky note: 43% response rate. No sticky note: 34% response rate. So how is a sticky note giving something? It is giving a personal request. It is saying "you matter" to the recipient. Yes, it is a small thing – but still very powerful.

You can see how this experiment would apply to communication with your donors. A handwritten personalized note goes such a long way to validate that the donor means something to you – that he is not just a "donor" but a real person. It is a gift.

Next time you are seeking donations, try adding a short personal comment on a sticky note and see what happens.

The full text of Perry and Schreifels' post can be found at:

http://veritusgroup.com/six-principles-of-influence-for-fundraising-1-reciprocation/



Thank you to everyone who has been hosting events to raise money and awareness for AHC this year!

The parents and family members who love someone with AHC are doing an outstanding job helping our community!

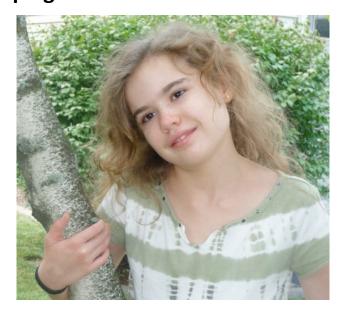
It is through the dedication and hard work of our volunteers that is making the difference for our loved ones!

Thank You!

Golf Outing to Benefit Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood Foundation

Sponsored by Terry Sharo For his granddaughter, Kiley Andrasco

Terry's granddaughter, Kiley, is afflicted with a rare neurological disorder called AHC (Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood). It has affected her since birth and makes every day a challenge for both her and her family. Almost every week, she has to deal with bouts of temporary paralysis, which impairs her ability to speak, walk, and perform other functions we take for granted. There is no known cure for AHC.



Golf Outing Details Register by June 3, 2015

The 4th annual golf outing will be held at beautiful Deer Creek Golf Course, located in University Park, Illinois. The course is rated 3 ½ stars by Golf Digest Magazine and continually voted one of Chicago's best places to play. The day includes 18 holes of golf and a buffet dinner for all participants.

Date: Friday, July 31, 2015

• Time: golf at 10 am, dinner at 3 pm

Cost for golf and dinner: \$75

Cost for dinner only: \$25

Sponsor a hole: \$100

General donation

Deer Creek Golf Course 25055 Western Avenue University Park, IL 60484 http://deercreekgolfcourse.com

The AHC Foundation

The Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood Foundation raises funds to find the causes of AHC and effective treatments or cures. The foundation is funded entirely by family fundraising efforts and activities, like this golf outing. Learn more at http://www.ahckids.org.

As you can imagine, the fundraising to find treatment and a cure is incredibly important to the entire Sharo and Andrasco families. We appreciate your support in whatever way works best for you, including donations.

AHCF Foundation Classification - 501 (c) (3) 509 (a) (1) I.D. No.. 38-3225425, DLN:(case no.) 315203063

To register, please fill out and mail the attached registration form by June 3, 2015. For more information, contact Terry Sharo at 708-478-3011 or tsharob@att.net.

Golf Fore a Cure 2015

for Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood

Saturday, June 13, 2015 at Plum Creek Golf Course, Winchester, IL

2 flights; 7:30A and 1:00P; call 742-9018 for a Tee Time

\$55 a person; 4-person teams; 1st place \$300; 2nd \$150;

10th Place \$50: Poker Run

prizes adjusted according to the number of teams

**Each team will receive 5 cards throughout the day; **

Up to 3 Extra poker hands at \$5 each may be purchased at the time of entry; 1 Mulligan for \$5, 1 team can only win one prize, the larger dollar amount



Prizes and Betting Hole

Deadline for Free T-shirt with Entry Fee is May 31. 2015

Music by Tim Hart, Hull, IL

Memorial Wine Glasses and Tastings Available

Silent Auction

Come join us starting at 5P, for live entertainment, pork loin sandwiches and beverages will be available and all donations are greatly appreciated!

Good Cooking All Day!!!

Thanks for making a difference in Michael's life

and helping continue our AHC Research!

Come out and grab a bite

and join in the fun!!!

