

RAF Newsletter Vol. 7 Spring 2020



Greetings from the RAF during the COVID-19 Pandemic

First and foremost we hope that you are all staying safe and healthy! Like so many others, the Board of Directors held their latest meeting via ZOOM last week.

We are all doing as well as expected working from home, going into work, parenting at home, home-schooling, trying to exercise in our basements, and of course enjoying the outdoors!

I'm sure you will all agree, it has been a challenge!

We are most saddened that we had to cancel our two biggest fundraisers - March Madness and just recently we made the very difficult decision to cancel our summer golf tournament. All of our friends and family members in health care know

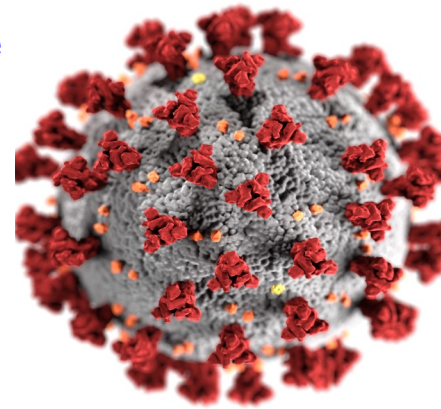
that this pandemic is not going away anytime soon and large social gatherings are not in our best interest.

As with many other foundations and charitable organizations who have cancelled their fundraisers, we are trying to find ways to reinvent our fundraising events.

You are all so important to us and make it possible to continue working on our mission to find—A Cause and a Cure!

Moving the research forward is dependent on the funds that RAF is able to raise during the year, thanks to all of you.

With that said, our hope is that you will consider donating directly to the RAF what you usually spend at the annual golf tournament. Thank you!

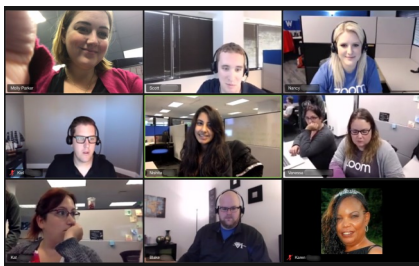


UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Consider making a donation in lieu of the golf tournament - online or mail a check

Wine/beer tasting Fall 2020—we hope!

Western NY Support Groups goes virtual



ZOOM meetings are increasing in popularity!

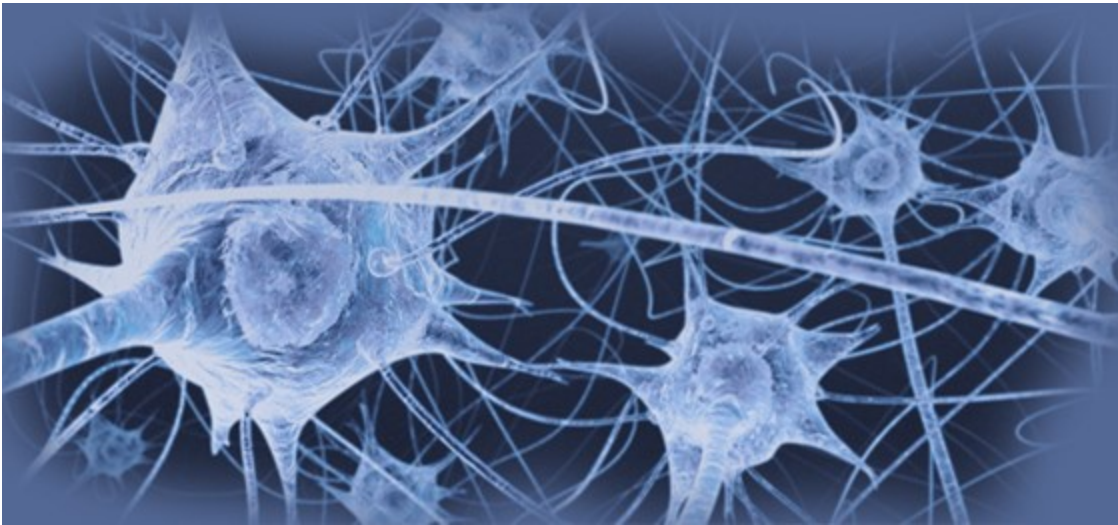
The Western NY Ataxia support group goes virtual! Due to the pandemic the western New York Ataxia support group is no longer meeting in person. Instead they met on ZOOM. Several of the participants said that they enjoyed the new format. No need to get in the car and drive but enjoy the meeting in the comfort of your own home.

Please contact jesse.diehl61@gmail.com or 585-315-1578 to join and the link will be sent to you.

Inside this issue:

<i>Fundraising Events</i>	1
<i>WNY support group</i>	1
<i>Dr. Fogel's Lab</i>	2
<i>New Website</i>	2

Important research in Dr. Fogel's lab



The Fogel Lab seeks to understand the basic and fundamental molecular mechanisms underlying human neurodevelopment and neurodegenerative disease. Under the direction of the Principal Investigator, Dr. Brent Fogel, we are currently examining how specific genes and genetic pathways influence the development of two classes of neurogenetic disease, cerebellar ataxia and autism spectrum disorder. Our goal is to better understand the molecular basis of these diseases to improve diagnosis and develop new strategies for better clinical treatments for patients and their families.

Thanks to the generosity of all of you, the RAF has been able to support Dr. Fogel's research lab. We have asked Dr. Fogel to provide us with an update on his Ataxia research. Check in often on our website for more information.

RAF launches new website!

The RAF has launched a new website. We are in the process of adding content.

Many thanks to Valerie, Ben, and John for all of their hard work on getting this website launched!

We are in the midst of adding content. We hope to update the research page with the latest information on current research and studies involving inherited ataxias.

In the future we will be able to host our fundraising events on this site. It will be much easier to register online!

Please visit us at:

<https://rochesterataxia.org/>



To Contact the RAF—please send an email to rochesterataxia@gmail.com

Visit our website—
www.rochesterataxia.org

Contact us by mail @
Rochester Ataxia Foundation
PO Box 16560
Rochester, NY 14616