News from the Hereditary Disease Foundation

May Is HD Awareness Month
We invite you to help build awareness and inspire others by sharing your story – whether from an HD family perspective or as a scientist – on Facebook @HereditaryDiseaseFoundation. Together we can make a difference!

Looking Back and Moving Forward
It was 25 years ago, in 1993, that researchers discovered the Huntington's disease gene. This "landmark" discovery was made by the Huntington's Disease Collaborative Research Group, organized by the Hereditary Disease Foundation. Nancy Wexler, PhD, led the research team in Venezuela studying the world's largest HD family. https://www.nytimes.com/1993/03/24/us/researchers-locate-gene-that-triggers-huntington-s-illness.html

Today, the Hereditary Disease Foundation continues to fund and support collaborative research that is focused on unlocking the secrets of and discovering treatments and cures for HD and other brain disorders.

Supporting Great Science
When resources are limited and the need is so great, the task of deciding which research to fund is particularly challenging. Gillian Bates, FMedSci, Ph.D., FRS is one of the distinguished scientists on the Hereditary Disease Foundation Scientific Advisory Board. The Board of 27 international scientists reviews grant and fellowship applications and selects the most innovative and promising research projects to fund.

Gill is Professor of Molecular Neuroscience, Co-Director of the Huntington's Disease Centre, Vice Dean (Research), Faculty of Brain Sciences at the Sobell Department of Motor Neuroscience, University College of London Institute of Neurology. Gill was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 2007 and to its Council in 2011. This is a rare and impressive honor.

Gillian Bates was a crucial member of the team that discovered the Huntington's disease gene in 1993. With funding from HDF she created the first mouse model of Huntington's disease in 1996, which changed the scope and possibilities for Huntington's disease research forever. Gill is currently using mouse models to understand the first events that cause HD, validate approaches to treating the disease, and to steer drug development programs. Gill received the HDF's Leslie Gehry Brenner Prize for Innovation in Science in 2012.

Coming Up: Milton Wexler Celebration of Life Symposium

Every two years, HDF organizes the "Milton Wexler Celebration of Life" Symposium, providing a forum for over 300 international HD researchers to present their most groundbreaking findings. This August, scientists from different disciplines will gather in Boston for three days to present their latest data and unpublished research in an atmosphere where they will be encouraged to collaborate, be candid, speculate and explore new pathways to treatments and cures. The symposium is designed to address the most recent developments in drug research, spark discussions of new ways to design and create therapies for HD and forge collaborations to quickly translate lab findings into clinical results. We're gearing up now for August!

We've Moved…

The new Hereditary Disease Foundation mailing address is 601 West 168th Street, Suite 54, NY, NY 10032. Email: cures@hdfoundation.org and phone: 212.928.2121 remain the same.

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