

Research Roundtable Community Summary – January 21, 2021

KIF1A.ORG held our sixth Research Roundtable meeting, “2021 Goals and Updates from KIF1A.ORG” on January 21. Our goals for this meeting were to:

- Introduce new Research Network members to KIF1A.ORG
- Share our reflection of 2020 success as it pertains to the Research Network
- Share our 2021 organizational goals as they pertain to the Research Network
- Announce new resources and initiatives that support our Research Network members and advance therapeutic development

Attendance



14 INSTITUTIONS



**25 RESEARCHERS &
CLINICIANS**



5 KIF1A.ORG REPS

Discussion & Big Takeaways

Reflecting on 2020 Research Network success: what have we done well?

- United our Research Network through monthly Research Roundtable meetings
- Fostered and supported collaborative interactions between researchers and outside partners
- Four newly funded KIF1A.ORG projects to accelerate the path to KAND treatment
- Aided in securing outside funding for KIF1A therapeutic focused research projects

What are our 2021 Research Network goals?

- Growth and Diversification
 - Started with 16 contacts in 2020, now over 50—we want to continue this growth!
 - Emphasis on welcoming and fostering relationships with clinical researchers
 - Diversify subspecialty of Research Network members
 - Support and provide opportunities for young investigators
 - Sustained growth means investing in the future and young investigators are the future!
- Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration
 - While happening already, we want to be a catalyst of progress
 - Lean on the important role of *non*-KIF1A researchers
 - Provide both connections and opportunities for collaboration
- Global Targeting and Understanding of KIF1A
 - When thinking about the road to KIF1A therapeutics, we think of two main approaches. The first would be treatments that directly modify KIF1A (KIF1A small molecules, KIF1A ASOs, KIF1A gene therapy).
 - This was a focus of 2020 and was quite successful.
 - The second would be indirectly addressing the implications of KIF1A dysfunction by modulating commonly altered neuronal pathways during neurological disease.
 - This is a goal for 2021.
 - Main question driving this goal: What are the global (“whole body”) implications of KIF1A function and dysfunction?
 - Areas of Interest: Neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation, electrophysiology, motor control, neuropharmacology, behavior, development, etc.

New Resources and Initiatives

- KIF1A.ORG Mini-Grants
 - \$15K initiative for 2021 to swiftly remove minor roadblocks to research progress (e.g. need to purchase cell lines, reagents, etc.)
 - Small grants for direct project expenses—can apply for up to \$5K in funding
 - Young investigators encouraged to apply
- Young Investigator of the Year
 - KIF1A investigators at the level of undergraduate/graduate student, postdoctoral fellow/researcher, medical student, or equivalent position
 - Award will be given on engagement with the KIF1A.ORG community, relevant publications/research updates, and/or history of advocacy/collaboration

- KIF1A.ORG Research Hub
 - A digital space powered by KIF1A.ORG, made possible by CZI Rare As One grant
 - Enabling researchers, clinicians and innovators from around the world to connect and collaborate
 - To accelerate treatment for this generation of patients affected by KAND
 - (Almost ready for beta launch!)

KIF1A
RESEARCH NETWORK

Network Core Collaborators Calendar Forum Resource Library About Us

KIFIAPORTAL

Welcome to the KIF1A Research Hub!

KIF1A.ORG believes Science Is Better Together. The KIF1A Research Hub is a digital space powered by KIF1A.ORG that enables researchers, clinicians and innovators from around the world to connect and collaborate to accelerate treatment for this generation of patients affected by KIF1A Associated Neurological Disorder.

What's inside the KIF1A Research Hub?

NETWORK DIRECTORY

Meet fellow researchers, clinicians & innovators in the KIF1A.ORG Research Network

[LEARN MORE →](#)

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Access data & resources to accelerate your research

[LEARN MORE →](#)

FORUM

Collaborate & exchange ideas with Research Network members

[LEARN MORE →](#)

CALENDAR

Keep up with important events & opportunities

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CORE COLLABORATORS

Learn about our collaboration with global leaders in rare disease research & therapeutic development

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ABOUT US

Get to know the KIF1A.ORG team

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Contact Us

We want to hear from you. Email us at research@kif1a.org.

[GET IN TOUCH](#)