



Foundation

Mission Statement

The Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics (FAST) is an organization of families and professionals dedicated to finding a cure for Angelman Syndrome (AS) and related disorders through the funding of an aggressive research agenda, education, and advocacy. The Foundation is committed to assisting individuals living with Angelman Syndrome to realize their full potential and quality of life. We are confident that our goals are now within reach and together, with your help, we will change lives. You are our driving force so please donate generously and bring us one step closer to realizing our mission.

Our People

Embarking on the mission to cure a genetic disorder requires the concerted efforts of a diverse, dedicated group of individuals. With leaders in the field of science, medicine, business, technology and entertainment, the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics is well poised to realize its mission.

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors utilize their expertise in various fields to advance our mission, assess our strategies and create opportunities to aggressively pursue treatments and therapeutics for a cure.

Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) consists of nationally and internationally recognized clinicians and scientists considered experts in their respective fields. Specific disciplines represented by the SAB include; pediatric neurology, epilepsy, diet and nutrition, human neurodevelopment, human cognitive disorders, small animal behavior, animal models of human disorders, mechanisms of learning and memory, synaptic plasticity and function, cellular signal transduction, cellular protein trafficking, epigenetics and genetics.

Current Research

Learn about the latest research

The articles found at www.CureAngelman.org represent the current research associated with Angelman Syndrome. These are scientific peer-reviewed articles published as a primary vehicle to disseminate scientific findings by researchers world-wide. The information is segregated into categories of human or animal studies. Subcategories include diagnostics, behavior, genetics, biochemistry, seizure, sleep disorders and health care.



Photo by James Branaman/ Spectrum Magazine

Angelman Syndrome Cured in Mouse Model

Meet the scientists

The FAST Scientific Advisory Board (FAST-SAB) represents leading clinicians and researchers in their respective fields, identified by their association with facets of Angelman Syndrome. The FAST-SAB will lend their expertise to advise the FAST Board of Directors to fund the very best science that complies with the mission of the FAST. Visit www.CureAngelman.org to meet the scientists.

Funding Opportunities

FAST is dedicated to funding cutting-edge research that will lead to the discovery of viable global treatment or specific treatments of certain aspects of AS. Please check back often at www.CureAngelman.org as this site will list specific Requests for Applications (RFAs). All applications will be reviewed by 3-4 members of the FAST-SAB and a decision of funding will be determined within 60 days of receipt.



Get Informed

Angelman Syndrome (AS) is a complex disorder that impacts every part of life for the person living with the disorder as well as their family. There are strategies and techniques that have helped many individuals with AS live fuller, richer lives. FAST's goal is to help families, educators, physicians and therapists identify and provide the supports those individuals with AS need to maximize their potential. Visit the Get Informed section of www.CureAngelman.org for more information on these strategies and techniques.





Get Involved

Free Membership

Membership in the Foundation is free and ensures that you stay current on all the latest research and progress. You will receive email updates as well as our e-newsletter, Get Informed FAST, to keep you informed on all fronts.

Make a Donation

FAST is committed to finding a cure for Angelman Syndrome. Great strides have been made in understanding how the loss of UBE3A affects neuronal functioning resulting in Angelman Syndrome. Recent research suggests neurons form correctly in individuals with Angelman Syndrome, however they are impaired in synaptic functioning. We strongly believe that further research on how to resupply UBE3A to neurons, or compensate for the loss of UBE3A in neurons, will provide a viable treatment for individuals with Angelman Syndrome. This idea is strongly supported by exciting recent research in mouse models of Angelman Syndrome. Your donation will make this viable treatment possible.

How Your Donation Helps

Basic research is the foundation for discoveries that lead to treatments for disease. We know what we need to do in order to attain our goal of curing Angelman Syndrome; fund the best and brightest to do excellent science. Most science is funded by the federal government through research grants to individuals. The time between applying for funding and receiving funding is close to one year! Sadly, there is not enough money provided to the National Institutes of Health to fund all of the innovative proposals submitted for consideration. Our goal is to provide rapid review of proposals and sufficient funding to enable progress towards a cure for Angelman Syndrome in the most efficient way possible.

Diagnostic Criteria for Angelman Syndrome

- Developmental delay, functionally severe (100%)
- Speech impairment, none or minimal use of words; receptive and non-verbal communication skills higher than verbal ones (100%)
- Movement or balance disorder, usually ataxia of gait and/or tremulous movement of limbs (100%)
- Behavioral uniqueness: any combination of frequent laughter/smiling; apparent happy demeanor; easily excitable personality, often with hand flapping movements; hypermotoric behavior; short attention span (100%)
- Delayed, disproportionate growth in head circumference, usually resulting in microcephaly (absolute or relative) by age 2 (80%)
- Seizures, onset usually <3 years of age (80%)
- Abnormal EEG, characteristic pattern with large amplitude slow-spike waves (usually 2-3/s), facilitated by eye closure (80%)
- Flat occiput (20-80%)
- Occipital groove (20-80%)
- Protruding tongue (20-80%)
- Tongue thrusting; suck/swallowing disorders (20-80%)
- Feeding problems during infancy (20-80%)
- Prognathia (20-80%)
- Wide mouth, wide-spaced teeth (20-80%)
- Frequent drooling (20-80%)
- Excessive chewing/mouthing behaviors (20-80%)
- Strabismus (20-80%)
- Hypopigmented skin, light hair and eye color (compared to family), seen only in deletion cases (20-80%)
- Hyperactive lower limb deep tendon reflexes (20-80%)
- Uplifted, flexed arm position especially during ambulation (20-80%)
- Increased sensitivity to heat (20-80%)
- Sleep disturbance (20-80%)
- Attraction to/fascination with water (20-80%)

From: "Angelman syndrome 2005: updated consensus for diagnostic criteria." Williams CA et al, Am J Med Genet A. 2006 Mar 1;140(5):413-8. PMID: 16470747



Foundation for
Angelman
Syndrome
Therapeutics

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Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics

What is Angelman Syndrome?

Angelman Syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by global developmental delays and severe speech impairment. Individuals with Angelman Syndrome have a movement and balance disorder and most have a seizure disorder which can be difficult to treat. Angelman Syndrome is caused by a severe reduction of expression of the Ube3a gene in the brain. Angelman Syndrome has recently been cured in the mouse model. This research, in conjunction with subsequent work, has provided a strong base upon which to pursue a cure in humans.

www.CureAngelman.org