

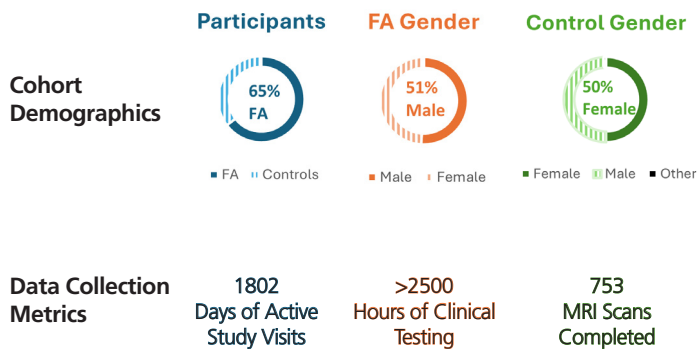
TRACK-FA NEWSLETTER

Issue 08 – September 2026

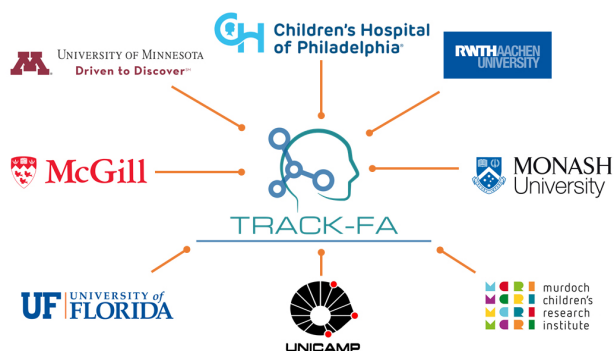
At a glance

TRACK-FA is a longitudinal natural history study that tracks brain and spinal cord changes in people with Friedreich's ataxia (FA). Our team of researchers from Australia, the USA, Germany, Brazil, and Canada, in collaboration with global industry partners, is investigating the sensitivity of neuroimaging biomarkers of FA to provide a basis for including them in future clinical trials.

In this study, we collect data from participants with FA and control participants at three time points: baseline, 12 months, and 24 months. We gather a variety of information, including brain and spinal cord scans, as well as clinical, cognitive, speech, mood, and blood biomarker measures.



We are excited to announce that data collection has concluded for all study visits. We are now processing the data to analyse brain, clinical, and cognitive changes over time. The major findings from the study are provided below. These will also be presented at the International Congress for Ataxia Research, held in Atlanta, USA, in November 2026.



Our partners:



STUDY STATUS

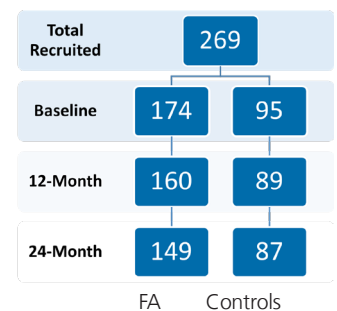
A MAJOR MILESTONE

24-month TRACK-FA findings are coming soon!

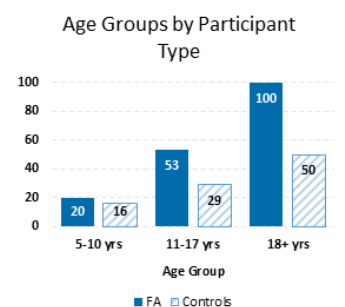
Building directly on our previously published baseline findings, the TRACK-FA team is working on a publication to present the full 24-month data gathered over two full years. This study will show how FA affects the brain and spinal cord over time and across different ages and life stages.

FINAL RECRUITMENT NUMBERS

Final recruitment numbers at all sites and across each study visit are summarised on the right.



Participants were aged 5-55 years old, with average ages of 22 years for participants with FA and 21 years for controls. The chart on the right shows the number of participants in each age group.



KEY DISCOVERIES AFTER 24 MONTHS

By following participants over two years and comparing the results between individuals with FA and controls, we can see how structural patterns evolve from early childhood through adulthood, rather than just taking a single snapshot in time.

DIFFERENT REGIONS, UNIQUE TIMELINES The Big Picture: One Size Doesn't Fit All!

Not all regions change in the same way. For example, regions like the spinal cord and brainstem (which connect the spinal cord to the brain) are affected early in the disease. We found that they do not grow as much over time in FA as in controls during childhood, and this is already evident in children as young as 5 years old.

In contrast, cerebellum and superior cerebellar peduncle size is similar in early childhood, then decreases over time in teenagers and adults with FA but not in controls. The rate of this decrease is very low (~1% per year) but can be measured with imaging.

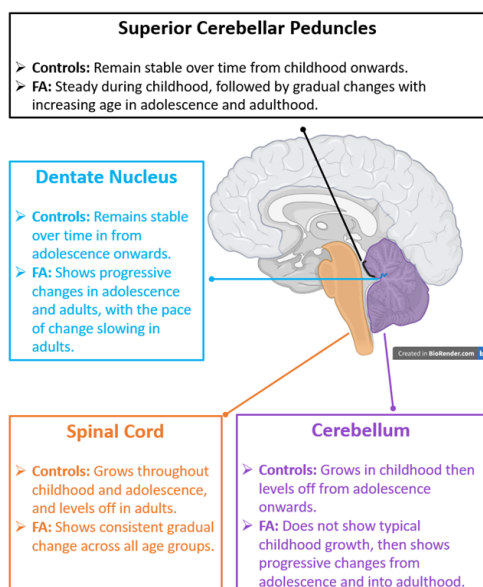
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Why is this exciting?

Knowing where and when to look allows researchers to design smarter, age-specific clinical trials, ensuring future treatments are measured using the right tool at the right age.

See the image below for a summary of the findings.



THANK YOU TO OUR COLLABORATORS

This study could not have been achieved without the funding and support of FARA and our industry partners, Larimar Therapeutics, Novartis, Takeda, PTC Therapeutics, and Ixico. We are extremely grateful for their generosity and cooperation.

We also extend our gratitude to all the sites, the clinicians, project coordinators, and researchers for their tireless efforts and commitment in making this study a success.

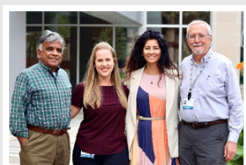
THANK YOU FOR MAKING HISTORY WITH US

This achievement reflects the powerful partnership between our participants, families, clinical teams, FARA, and industry partners.

Your 24 months of participation have been generous and appreciated. You have helped to shape the future of FA treatments and clinical trial design worldwide.



TRACK-FA Site Teams



University of Florida

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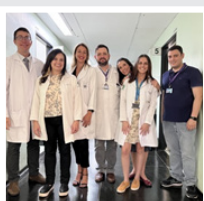
[More information](#)



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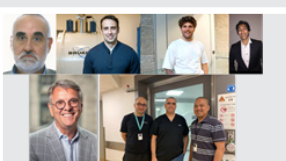
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More information

□ www.monash.edu/medicine/trackfa

