

Out in Front of Osteoarthritis Research

Our ultimate goal in osteoarthritis (OA) research is creating a pathway that leads to life-changing new treatments for people, like Brian, who live with OA — namely the discovery and development of disease-modifying drugs for OA, similar to those available for RA. The Arthritis Foundation is already recognized as a world leader in OA research by the Osteoarthritis Research Society International for our work focusing on identification of OA biomarkers and new imaging techniques, but our work is far from done. We will continue to pave the way, not only for the development of new drugs for OA, but also for a quicker journey from discovery to market.



“*Few if any other organizations have had the impact that the Arthritis Foundation has had on finding effective treatments for arthritis or helping patients and physicians better understand the disease.*”

— *Dr. Farshid Guilak, recipient of the 2014 Arthritis Foundation Investigator Award*



“*I've spent most of my life with doctor's appointments, shots, medications and more. It sounds horrible, but for kids who have arthritis, this is just every day.*”

— *Rebecca Kuo, diagnosed at age 5*

The Arthritis Foundation Leads the Way

FUNDING RESEARCH

Dr. Fashid Guilak, the Lazlow Ormandy Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Duke University Medical Center, is fascinated by human joints and how they work. He understands that for joints affected by osteoarthritis (OA), there are no treatments other than exercise, weight control, pain medications and, for the most extreme cases, joint replacement. Guilak is the recipient of an Arthritis Foundation 2012-2013 Innovative Research Grant, as well as one of two 2014 Arthritis Foundation Investigator Awards.

Dr. Guilak hopes his research will lead to further advances in the treatment of OA. He's interested in one day growing new cartilage from a patient's own stem cells to replace damaged cartilage and halt the progression of OA and post-traumatic arthritis.

FUNDING CARRA

There are 300,000 children who, like Rebecca, have their childhood governed by visits to the doctor's office and rigid medication schedules. Because of these children, a major Arthritis Foundation funding initiative is The CARRA Registry, administered by the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance. The Registry is a nationwide database of more than 9,000 patients utilized by more than 400 top scientists and physicians to facilitate cutting-edge research. The Registry will one day lead us to solutions such as personalized medicine, treatments tailored to specific patients, and accelerated time to remission for those young patients.

The Alliance has already released several consensus treatment protocols, which provide research-backed, standardized treatment options for particular forms of juvenile arthritis.

ACCELERATING DRUG DISCOVERIES

The Arthritis Foundation has joined the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP), an innovative public-private collaboration initiated by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health to accelerate new drug discovery and development for several diseases, including RA and lupus. It's one more example of how we are leading the way in medical and scientific discovery.