



## Advancing Discoveries For 15 Years

### 2005-2006

First-ever FSH research grants are awarded to Seattle area researchers at the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

### 2008

Seattle researchers are part of a team that discovers the presence of a muscle destroying protein called DUX4 in people with FSHD.

### 2010

Seattle researchers, working in collaboration with the University of Leiden and the University of Rochester, confirm that the genetic mutation in people with FSHD causes the release of DUX4. Seattle becomes one of the world's major FSH research centers thanks to funding from *Friends*.

### 2011-2014

Researchers around the world continue to study DUX4 and further understand the conditions at play in FSHD. Now, we have a target! Work begins on trying to solve the "DUX4 problem."

### 2015-2018

Researchers at established labs are joined by biotech/pharma companies in trying to find a treatment or cure. The pace of discovering potential treatments begins to accelerate.

### Today and beyond...

In June 2018, at an international research conference in Las Vegas, several labs and companies presented the status of their work on drug screens and gene-modifying therapies. Some hope to initiate clinical trials within 1-2 years. We are getting close to a treatment - and *Friends* has played a pivotal role in the progress to date.

When we started in 2005, there was little understanding of FSHD. The nearly \$4M of basic research we funded helped lead to the discovery of DUX4. *Friends* has been supporting the research and laboratories which have brought us to the edge of a therapy. Now we are focused on moving therapies into clinical trials through support of the Clinical Trials Research Network (which includes Seattle) and the development of measures to test the effectiveness of any therapy.