friends of FSH research

In Pursuit of a Cure

Advancing Discoveries For 19 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.

2019-2023 and beyond...

The first-ever clinical trial of a drug designed to stop the progression of FSHD began in 2019. More clinical trials are on the horizon as the field continues to expand and more labs and companies get involved in FSDH research, looking at drug and gene-modifying therapies. *Friends* has played a pivotal role in the progress to date.

When we started in 2005, there was little understanding of FSHD. Our investment of over $7M in research helped lead to the discovery of DUX4 and the progress which has brought us to the edge of a therapy. Now we are focused on moving therapies into clinical trials through support of the FSHD Clinical Trial Research Network (which includes Seattle) and the development of measures to test the effectiveness of any therapy.

FSHfriends.org