



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

National Ataxia Foundation celebrates International Ataxia Awareness Day (IAAD) with various outreach strategies to bring awareness to this rare disease.

Minneapolis, MN (September 25, 2018) – Today, National Ataxia Foundation, along with (Name of Organization, Support Group, or individual), is celebrating International Ataxia Awareness Day (IAAD). IAAD is an effort from Ataxia organizations and individuals around the world to spread awareness about the disease and inspire action towards a cure.

“Working towards a cure is our mission – but awareness about Ataxia is important too. That’s why we think that this year’s IAAD theme ‘Fight Ataxia,’ which focuses on Ataxia symptoms, is spot-on,” said Executive Director Joel Sutherland.

Sutherland went on to explain that management of symptoms is essential for those with Ataxia. Through this awareness campaign, individuals will be empowered to recognize signs of Ataxia. Physicians will benefit from a greater understanding of how the disease manifests and treatment options for their patients.

Ataxia is a rare, neurological disease that affects approximately 150,000 people in the United States. It is progressive, affecting a person’s ability to walk, talk, and use fine motor skills. It can be fatal. Ataxia causes individuals to appear drunk, since slurred speech and stumbling are symptoms. This is related to degeneration in the part of the brain that controls coordination and movement.

The National Ataxia Foundation was established in 1957 to look for treatments and a cure for Ataxia. NAF continues its efforts in helping Ataxia families through research, education, and support.

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To find out more, contact us or visit NAF’s website at www.ataxia.org.