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LAUREN MOORE ANNOUNCED AS NAF'S FIRST CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

Minneapolis, MN (December 15, 2021) – The National Ataxia Foundation (NAF) announced the hiring of the organization's first Chief Scientific Officer, Lauren Moore, PhD, following an extensive nationwide search. She will lead NAF's Ataxia research grant program as well as continue to expand relationships with the growing number of biotech and pharmaceutical companies who are working on developing treatments for Ataxia. Bringing an experienced scientific voice to the NAF staff is an important step toward our mission to accelerate the development of treatments and a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia. She will join the organization on January 3rd, 2022.

Dr. Moore has built a reputation as a collaborative and trusted colleague throughout the Ataxia research community. She was previously Senior Scientist at Exicure, a clinical stage biotech company where she acted as lead scientist over multiple therapeutic programs aimed at developing oligonucleotide-based therapies for rare neurological diseases such as Ataxia. Dr. Moore received her PhD in neuroscience from the University of Michigan under the mentorship of Dr. Henry Paulson, where her thesis was titled "Towards understanding and developing antisense oligonucleotide-based therapies for spinocerebellar ataxia type 3." She holds a B.S. in Biomedical Physics from Northeastern University.



"I first saw Lauren present at our annual patient conference in 2019," said Andrew Rosen, NAF Executive Director. "Her ability to share her personal connection to Ataxia and engage with our community of patients, their families and caregivers, was remarkable. We are at a pivotal moment in the search for effective treatments, and I know Lauren will bring great energy and knowledge to our staff." Added Dr. Vikram Shakkottai, chair of NAF's Medical Research and Advisory Board, "I was privileged to have worked with Dr. Moore during her graduate school training at the University of Michigan, and have been impressed with the scientific rigor, collaboration and intellect that have driven her experiments. The NAF is fortunate to have someone of Dr. Moore's caliber to guide its scientific program."

Dr. Moore said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead NAF's scientific and research programs at such a pivotal time for the Ataxia community. I was driven to pursue a career in Ataxia research following a positive genetic diagnosis in my own family, and know first-hand the impact these diseases have on individuals and their loved ones. Having witnessed the immense progress made over the last decade working in Ataxia research and drug development, I am very hopeful for the future of Ataxia and am honored to support further advancement of life-changing treatments as the first CSO of NAF."

About NAF: The National Ataxia Foundation is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1957 to look for treatments and a cure for Ataxia. Ataxia is a rare, neurological disease affecting tens of thousands of people in the United States alone. It is progressive, affecting a person's ability to walk, talk, and use fine motor skills. It can be fatal. NAF continues its efforts in helping Ataxia families through research, education, and support.

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