



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Ataxia Foundation and SCAsource Announce Integration Partnership to Distribute Ataxia Articles

Minneapolis, MN (May 27, 2022) – The National Ataxia Foundation, a leading nonprofit organization established to help persons with Ataxia and their families, today announced plans to partner with SCAsource, an Ataxia research news website. SCAsource offers peer-reviewed articles about research on Ataxias, written in plain language. The strategic partnership will eliminate SCAsource’s administrative costs and offer easy-to-read, scientific articles to NAF’s members.

“Our understanding of Ataxias is progressing rapidly. In 2021 alone, there were almost 300 new research articles published about Ataxia. Members of the Ataxia community deserve access to free, accurate, and accessible information about their disease,” said NAF’s Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Lauren Moore. “Coming from a family with Ataxia, I know how difficult it can be to keep up to date with Ataxia research and drug development, and even harder to find information that the average person can understand. I’m so excited for this partnership with SCAsource and know that it will be a great resource for the Ataxia Community.”

SCAsource began as a grassroots project, started by scientists, to bring awareness of Ataxia and offer research-related news to the Ataxia community. The volunteer-run operation has been growing since its inception. This partnership will increase SCAsource’s reach and ease their administrative responsibilities while offering a new resource to NAF. Plans are underway to migrate all articles from SCAsource’s current website to NAF’s website. The target date for migration is July 2022. SCAsource’s managing editors, Hayley McLoughlin, PhD, and Celeste Suart had this to say about the partnership with NAF:

“As scientists, we believe we have more than the opportunity to just research and understand these debilitating diseases, but can also help

bridge the gap to make comprehension of research in the Ataxia field accessible,” said Hayley McLoughlin, PhD.

“We’d like to thank NAF for this incredible opportunity. Partnering with them will help SCAsource reach more people and drastically reduce our overhead costs. It will allow us to keep writing research summaries and making Ataxia research accessible for all,” said Celeste Suart.

About NAF

Ataxia is a rare neurological disease affecting tens of thousands of people in the US and many thousands more around the world. It is progressive, affecting a person’s ability to walk, talk, and use fine motor skills. Founded in 1957, NAF is a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization established to help persons with Ataxia and their families. The Foundation’s vision of a world without Ataxia will be accomplished through its primary programs of funding Ataxia research, providing vital programs and services for Ataxia families, and partnering with pharmaceutical companies in the search for treatments and a cure. NAF works closely with the world’s leading Ataxia researchers, promoting exchanges of ideas and innovation in Ataxia discovery.

About SCAsource

SCAsource is a website where research on SCAs and related ataxias is written in plain language by SCA scientists. Our goal is to make research more readily accessible and understandable to ataxia patients and families. All SCAsource content is free to use and share on other websites and through social media. SCAsource is entirely run by volunteers, primarily graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in laboratories which study Spinocerebellar Ataxias.

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