

December 2018

The National Ataxia Foundation (NAF) with SCA Global meeting planners announces the **1st SCA Global Conference**, March 27-29, 2019 at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, U.S.A. The goal of this conference is to assemble a global consortium for clinical studies of the spinocerebellar ataxias, (SCAs). One aspect to achieve that goal is to help establish future leaders of ataxia research by facilitating the involvement of young investigators.

Therefore, abstract submissions are encouraged from junior ataxia investigators to include graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty.

Three sequential, overlapping themes are planned for the conference:

Theme 1 - Existing cohorts and natural history of SCAs.

Theme 2 - Common standards for clinical assessment, brain imaging and biosampling.

Theme 3 - Enhancing clinical trial readiness.

A relevant part of the platform presentations is envisioned to be given by investigators who are considered next generation leaders, with six speaking slots reserved for junior researchers chosen by the Organization/Program committee based on the quality of their submitted abstracts.

Review criteria will include:

- 1. Relevance to the SCAs**
- 2. Regional/ethnic variability of clinical presentations/disease progression/disease burdens/genotype distributions/prevalence**
- 3. Clinical Trial results**
- 4. Biomarker development**
- 5. Imaging in SCA cohorts**

Abstract submission guidelines:

- Abstract submissions must be original research and limited to 300 words (for Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion) and one page. Please see the attached abstract template. One figure or table is allowed but not required.
- Only one abstract may be submitted for selection to receive a travel award.
- Please suggest the theme under which your abstract should be reviewed.
- Selected presenters must be able to attend the entire SCA Global Conference.

- Submit abstracts using the proposalCENTRAL grant management program by 5:00 p.m. CST on **January 7, 2019**.
- Awardees will be informed between **January 15-18** and awardees must accept the invitation by **January 31, 2019**.

Travel and registration support: Six (6) speaking slots are reserved to recognize and encourage junior investigators with promising careers in ataxia research. Meeting registration, travel and lodging support will be provided by the NAF for selected applicants.

Thank you to the SCA Global Conference Steering Committee members: Tetsuo Ashizawa, Thomas Klockgether, Alexandra Dürr, Laura Jardim, Bing-wen Soong, David Szmulewicz, Holm Graessner, Julie Greenfield, Sue Hagen

Questions may be directed to Sue Hagen at NAF at susan@ataxia.org or 763-231-2742.