

ICAR Satellite Meeting

Advancing FA Research: Junior Investigator Spotlight

Friday November 13, 2026		
3:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Session 1: Mitochondrial Biology and Metabolism Chair:	
	3:00PM – 3:22PM	PCDHGA10 Drives Cardiomyocyte Injury and Mitochondrial Oxidative Stress in a Human iPSC Model of Friedreich Ataxia (<i>Jarmon Lees, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research</i>)
	3:22PM – 3:44PM	Phase-dependent platelet mitochondrial remodeling after omaveloxolone initiation in Friedreich's ataxia (<i>Lucie Stovickova, Motol University Hospital</i>)
	3:44PM – 4:06PM	Metabolic rewiring through ketosis rescues frataxin deficiency by promoting mitochondrial biogenesis (<i>Yina Dong, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia</i>)
	4:06PM – 4:28PM	Nanobody-Based Approaches to Address Fe-S Cluster Biogenesis (<i>María Florencia Pignataro, Instituto de Biociencias, Biotecnología y Biología Traslacional</i>)
	4:30PM – 4:50PM	Break
4:50 PM - 6:00 PM	Session 2: Genetics and Epigenetics Chair:	
	4:50PM – 5:12PM	Transcriptome-wide aberrant splicing as a pathogenic mechanism in Friedreich's ataxia (<i>Zhongbo Chen, University College London</i>)
	5:12PM – 5:34PM	Epigenetic Editing Restores Frataxin Expression to Physiological Levels in Friedreich's Ataxia Cells (<i>Jackson Powell & Kaitlin Pensabene, Epicrispr Biotechnologies</i>)
	5:34PM – 5:56PM	Sequence-dependent phenotypic consequence of expanded composite alleles in Friedreich ataxia (<i>Sanjay Bidichandani, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center</i>)

Saturday

November 14, 2026

9:00AM – 10:43AM	Session 3: Neuroinflammation and Non-Cell Autonomous Mechanisms Chair:	
	9:00AM – 9:22AM	TLR4-mediated neuroimmune signaling drives proprioceptive neuron degeneration in Friedreich ataxia (<i>Deepika Mokkachamy Chellapandi, INMG-PGMM</i>)
	9:22AM – 9:44AM	Calcium dysregulation exacerbates TGF β -induced fibrotic responses in Friedreich's ataxia human fibroblasts (<i>Anna Stepanova, Weill Cornell Medicine</i>)
	9:44AM – 10:06AM	Edited HSPCs Restore Frataxin and Resolve Myeloid-Driven Pathology in the CNS, Heart, and Pancreas in Friedreich's ataxia mice (<i>Anusha Sivakumar, University of California San Diego</i>)
	10:06AM – 10:28AM	Modeling Friedreich's Ataxia-Associated Retinal Pathology Using Patient-Derived Retinal Organoids (<i>Prabha Acharya, University of Texas Southwestern</i>)
	10:30AM - 10:50AM	Break
10:50AM – 12:00PM	Discussion Moderators:	