

**November 16, 2019**

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**2019  
SC Family  
Education Day**





## SPEAKER:

# Kimberly Osborne

Kimberly Austin Osborne has worked in healthcare and information technology since 1996. She is currently an Interface Analyst for the Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg, SC. She received her Bachelor's degree with dual specialization in Management and Management Information Systems from Saint Leo University in 2001. Kimberly began her work with the Huntington's Disease Society of America in February 2013 with peer support group training and then moved on to SC's first Team Hope Walk in October 2014. She is currently a co-chair for the SC HDSA Affiliate.



- Affiliate Website:

<https://southcarolina.hdsa.org/>

Facebook Affiliate Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HDSASouthCarolina>

Facebook Closed Support Group:

Put in Search Bar--HD in SC → Hope for a Cure

[Twitter: @CureHDinSC](https://twitter.com/CureHDinSC)



## SPEAKER: Martha Nance, MD

Martha Nance received her MD from the Medical College of Virginia; completed her residency in Neurology and a fellowship in clinical genetics at the University of Minnesota; and a fellowship in clinical genetics at the University of Minnesota. She is board certified in neurology and clinical genetics. Dr. Nance has a special interest in movement disorders and has been the medical director of the Huntington's Disease Center at Hennepin County Medical Center since 1991 and is currently the Director of the HDSA Center of Excellence there.

Dr. Nance wears many hats. In addition to the care of patients and families with HD she is involved in clinical research to develop better treatment. She is interested in education for both patients and medical professionals.

Dr. Nance received the Lifetime achievement Award from the Huntington Study Group at the annual meeting last week in Sacramento California

# Huntington's disease— the long view

Martha A. Nance MD

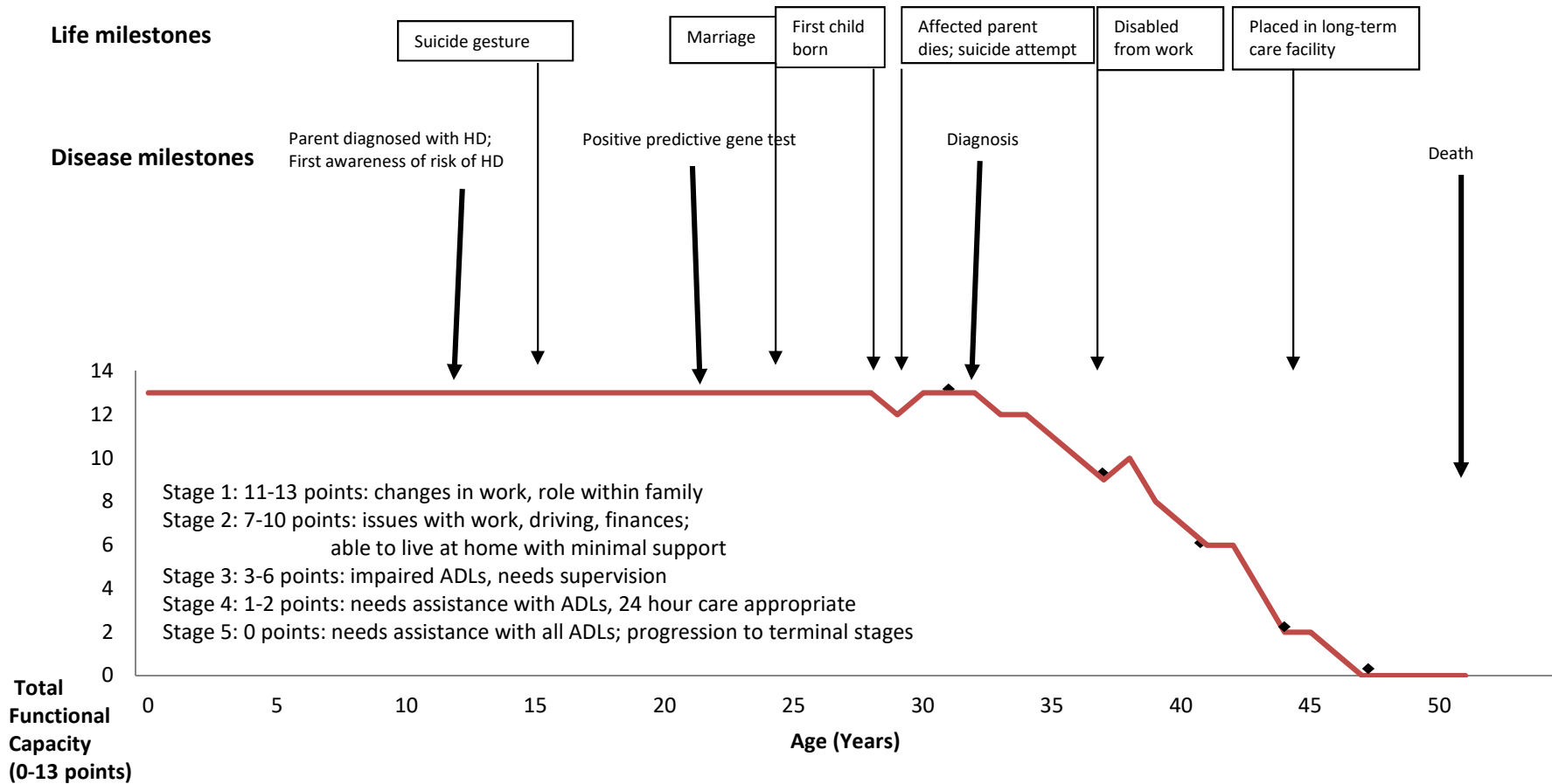
Hennepin County Medical Center

HDSA Center of Excellence

# Disclosures

- Consultant: Roche, Voyager, Uniquire
- Steering Committee: KINECT-HD
- Grant support: CHDI, HDSA
- Chair, Family Education Committee, HSG
- Member, Scientific and Bioethics Advisory Committee, EHDN

# Progression of symptoms and disability in a typical patient with Huntington's disease



# HD lasts a lifetime

- The “HD gene” is there from conception
- The impact of HD on a person often begins long before any symptoms
- Changes in the brain appear up to 20 years before there are definite motor symptoms





# On a long life with HD,

- Plan ahead, so you can have the stuff that you like and need
  - (and so that the inevitable changes do not come as a surprise)
- Eat right
- Drink enough fluids
- Do things! Life is to be lived!
- Bring family/friends with you
- Oh yeah, and...stay fit! Exercise!





OPC-1147  
Coenzyme Q10  
Creatine  
Ethyl-EPA  
Riluzole  
Dimebon/Latrepidine  
Laquinimod  
Minocycline  
Phenylbutyrate  
Pridopidine  
Remacemide  
VX-15 (Signal)

Tetrabenazine  
Deutetrabenazine

PREDICT  
PHAROS  
COHORT  
ENROLL-HD





2019: trials of treatments  
directed at the HD gene itself

RG6042 (HD Generation 1) (Roche)

PRECISION HD-1 and  
PRECISION HD-2  
(Wave Life Sciences)

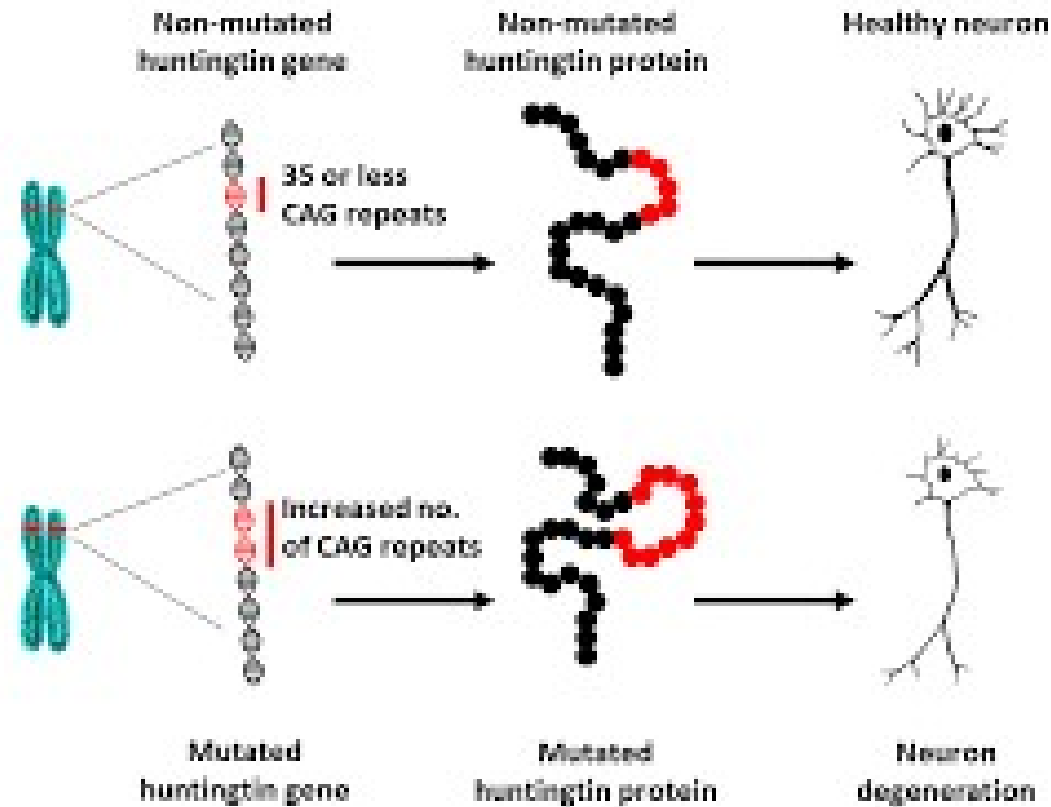
AMT-130 (UniQure)

# **GENE SILENCING**

# Gene silencing, in words

- You have two HD genes

# CAG repeats in the HD gene





# Gene silencing, in words

- You have two HD genes
- In people with HD, one gene is too long (has too many CAG repeats)
- Genes are located in the nucleus of the cell
- When it is time to make a protein, the gene makes a copy of itself, called mRNA
- The mRNA goes to the ribosome, where it is “read” to make the huntingtin protein

# Gene silencing, in words

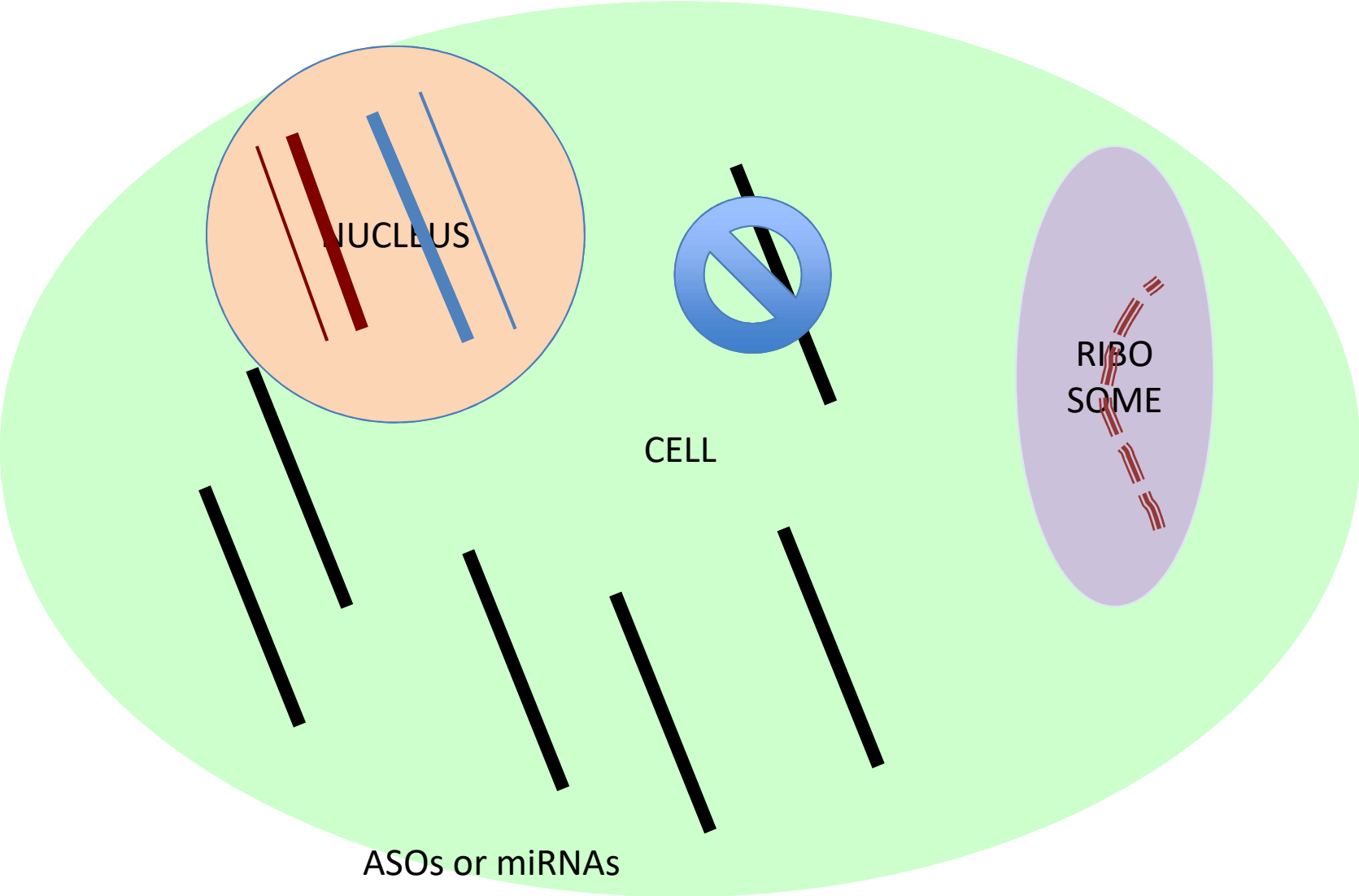
- If the normal gene makes RNA, it will make a normal protein
- If the abnormally long gene makes RNA, then the resulting protein will be too long and will not work properly/fall apart too easily
- Too much abnormal huntingtin protein in the (nerve) cell leads to damage and death of the cell



# Gene silencing, in words

- Insert an “antisense oligonucleotide” (ASO) or “microRNA” (miRNA) into the cell, which recognizes mRNA made by the abnormal gene
- The mRNA will stick to the ASO, and will be discarded by the cell/not used to make a protein
- If you only make normal protein, then you shouldn't get HD

# Gene silencing



# Different approaches

	Kind of molecule	Targets	Administration	Phase	Enrolling
Roche	ASO	Both HD genes	Repeated intrathecal injections	3	yes!
Wave	ASO	Two “flags” found on 70% of abnormal HD genes	Repeated Intrathecal injections	1-2	In Canada and Europe
UniQure	miRNA/viral vector	Both HD genes	Single surgical treatment	1-2	4th Q 2019?

# Challenges

- ASOs don't silence the abnormal gene completely
  - Huntingtin levels in CSF reduced by 40-60% (Roche)
- Is it OK to silence both copies of the gene?
  - So far, so good
  - But mice without an HD gene do not live long enough to be born

# Questions

- Does intrathecal (by spinal tap) administration get the ASO where it needs to go (where does it need to go?)
- All treatments so far are targeting the brain
- How about surgical administration—both sides of the brain? What locations?
- How long will a miRNA persist in the brain?

# Other things to think about

- The Wave products target 2 “flags” that are present near about 70% of abnormal HD genes (in Caucasians) (and could be present near normal genes in some people)
- Understand that this is research...some participants will receive placebos
- What if the treatment works, but is realllly expensive...





# HD lasts a lifetime

- The “HD gene” is there from conception
  - Why don't the symptoms start at birth?

# The new genetics of HD

- The old genetics:
  - How many CAG repeats in the huntingtin (HD) gene
- The new genetics:
  - Up to 5% of CAG repeat sequences may be counted incorrectly using the current gene test (usually +/- 2 of the actual CAG length)
  - CAG repeat lengths can change during lifetime—in the brain cells
  - Onset of HD may be related to when/how much the CAG repeat length increases in the brain cells

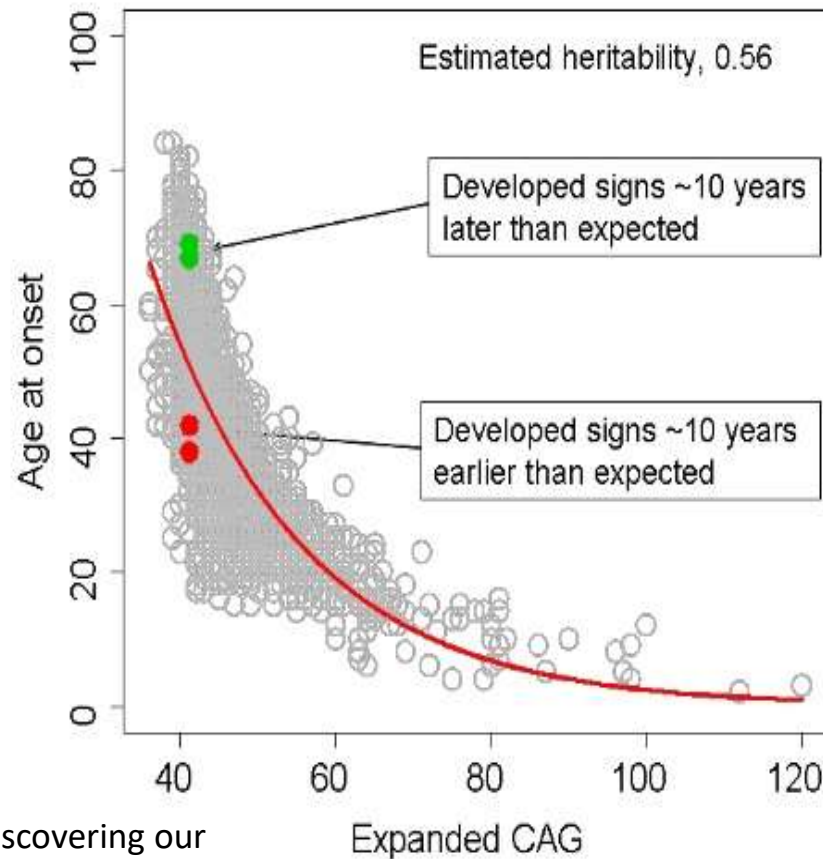
# Say what?

- Increases in CAG repeat length in brain cells may be related to
  - Whether there is an “interruption” in the CAG repeat sequence (the same thing that might cause the repeat number to be counted incorrectly)
  - The function of other genes (in particular, genes involved in DNA repair)
- This has not (yet) led to new tests

# Relationship between CAG Repeat Number and Onset Age

Age at onset is determined by *HTT* CAG repeat length and modifiers

- Related to length of the CAG repeat sequence
- And (possibly) whether that sequence is “interrupted”
- And to increases in CAG length in brain cells
- Which is related to the function of some DNA repair genes?

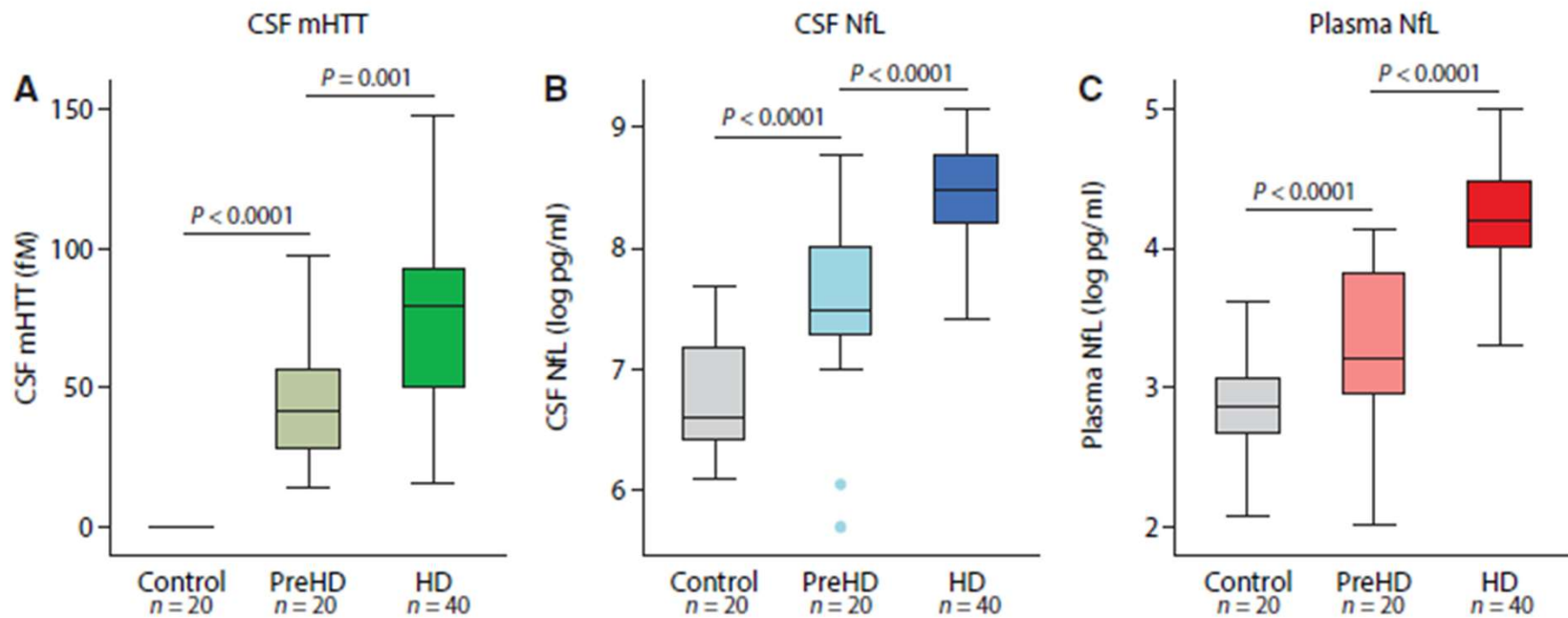


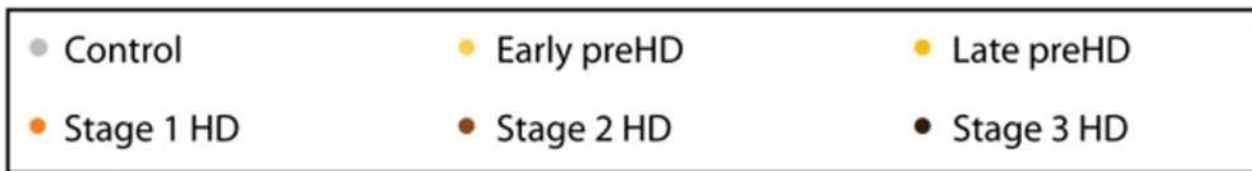
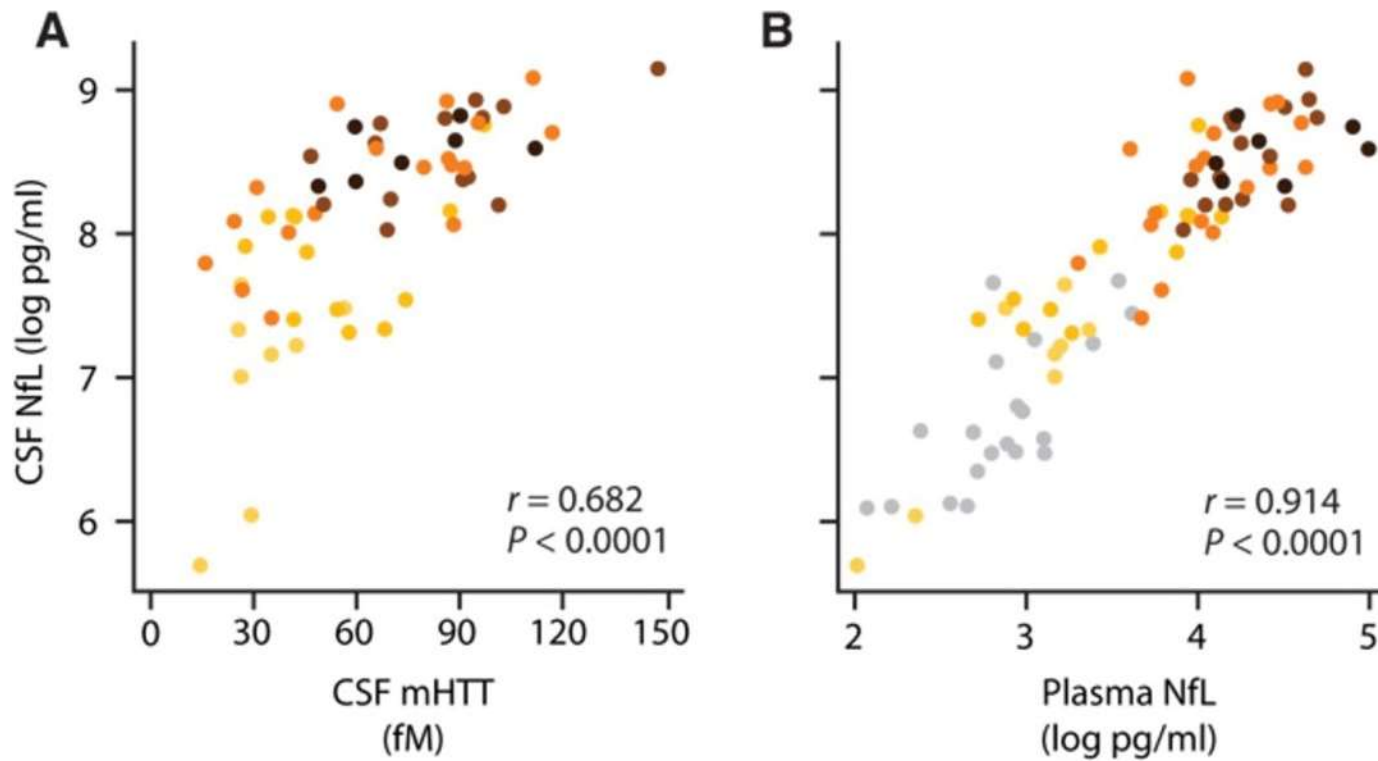
Geschwind, M. 2016 HD Insights of the Year, HSG 2016: Discovering our future. <https://www.slideshare.net/HeatherHare/hd-insights-of-the-year-niccolini>

# HD lasts a lifetime

- What are the earliest changes in the brain?
- Biomarkers may tell us when the disease process has begun (CSF htt levels, MRI markers)
  - Maybe in the future at-risk/gene-positive people will come in for periodic (2 year? 5 year?) spinal taps

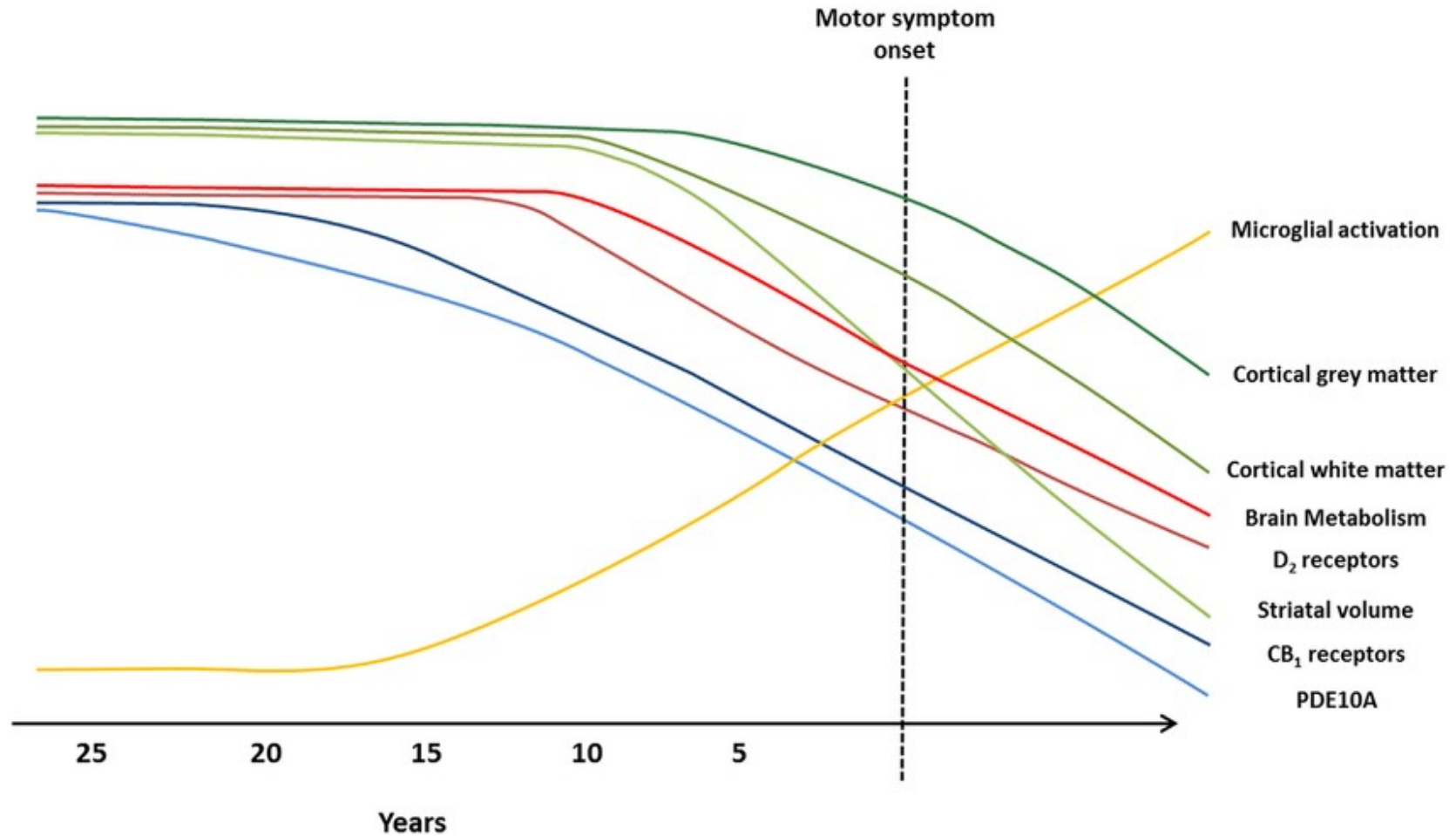
# HTT and NfL proteins increase as HD symptoms develop



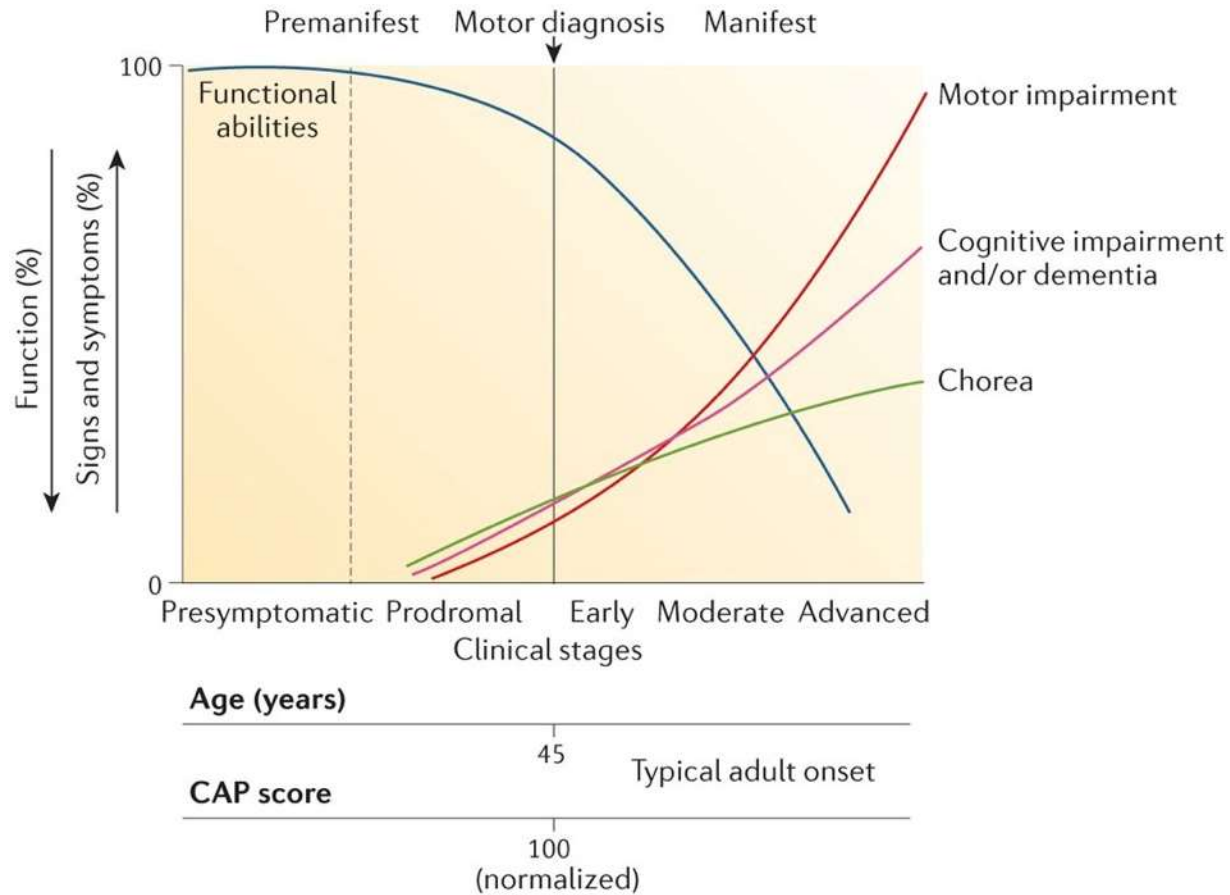




# MRI changes are detectable before clinical symptoms of HD



# The course of HD



If we “diagnose” HD earlier, then we  
need to work on...

- Insurability
- Employability
- Self-image
- Status within the family
- Our attitudes about what it means to “have HD”

BJ Viau—from hoopathons...



# To international leadership



**MAKE YOUR NEXT STOP GLASGOW  
2020 HDYO INAUGURAL CONFERENCE**



Facebook- @HDYouthOrg Twitter- @hdyofeed Instagram- @hdyofeed LinkedIn - @HDYO Snapchat- @hdyofeed

# Even if “disease-modifying therapies” (DMTs) work...

- There will still be people who have HD who won't or can't get ASO treatment
  - Who will need the best care
- And people realizing they are at risk or affected
  - Who will need support, counseling, testing, reproductive/life/career decisionmaking, medical care

# Advances in HD care

- Guidelines for physical therapy
  - (we now know that you SHOULD be exercising!)
- Guidelines for doing predictive genetic testing
- Algorithms for managing a number of psychological/psychiatric symptoms
- Two FDA-approved medications for chorea (and a third one being studied in the KINECT-HD trial)



# Sonshine and Hope







SC 2019 Family Education Day



## SPEAKER: Miroslav Cuturic, MD

Dr. Miroslav Cuturic joined University of South Carolina School of Medicine in 2003. He earned his medical degree from the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, and completed postdoctoral research at the Center for Biomedical Research within the fields of virology and immunology in Zagreb, Croatia. He attended a psychiatry residency at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, CT, followed by a neurology residency at St. Louis University in St Louis, MO. He completed neuromuscular/EMG fellowship training at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. He has been director of our Huntington's disease (HD) clinic since 2009. He is board certified in Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology and Electrodiagnostic medicine. Currently, he is our site HSG investigator, site primary investigator for Enroll-HD and the director of the SC HDSA Center of Excellence.



# Huntington's Disease Research Update



Miroslav Cuturic, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology  
HDSA Center of Excellence  
University of South Carolina School of Medicine  
HD Education Day  
Columbia, SC, November 16, 2019





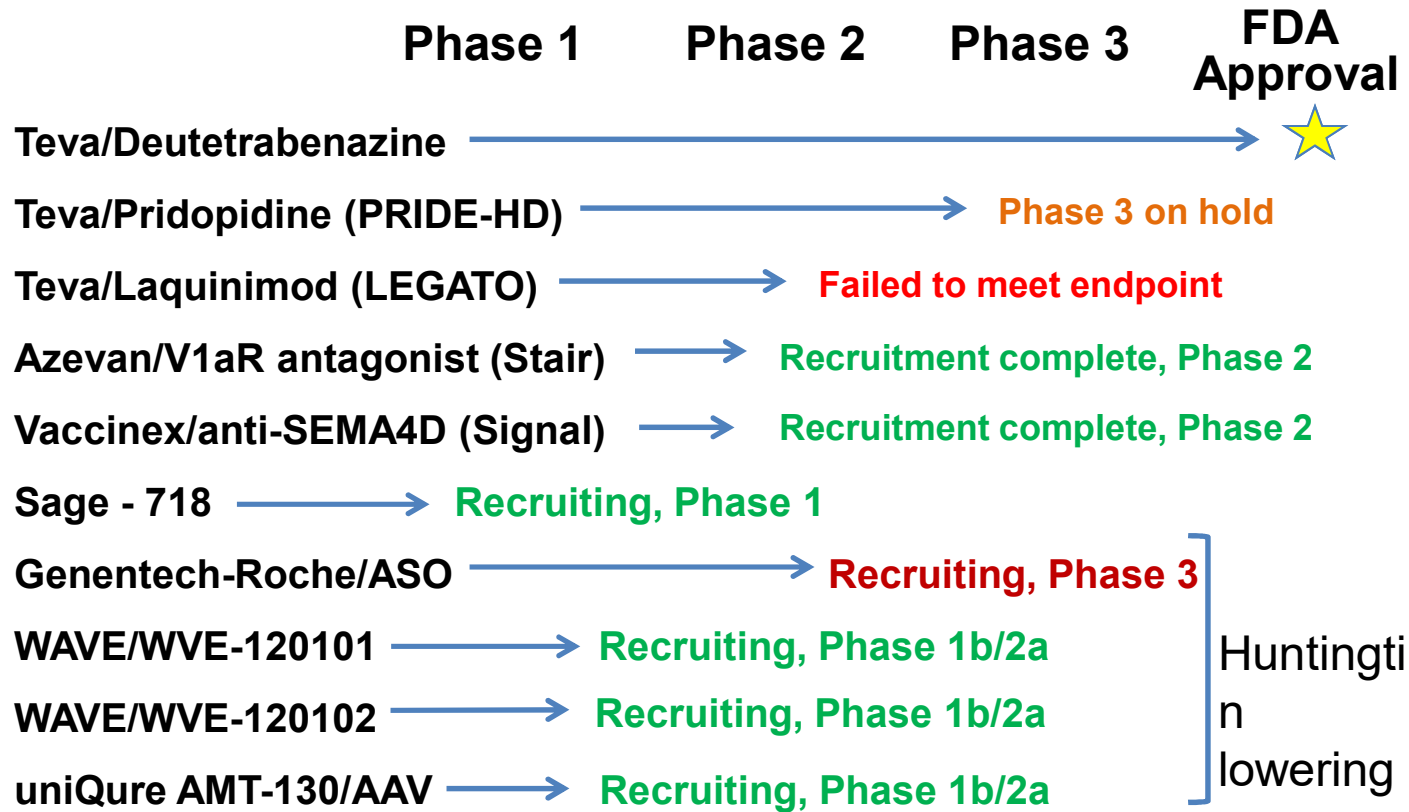
## HD clinical studies and trials

## What are the phases of a clinical trial?

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Who?	Patients or healthy volunteers	Patients	Patients
What?	Safety (dangerous side effects)	Other side effects & body effects	Efficacy (helping symptoms)
How many?	20-100	100-300	300-600 or more



## HD drug pipeline: completed and ongoing trials



HD drug pipeline:  approved by FDA!



- Oral drug that controls movements; similar to tetrabenazine
- In the Phase III trial called FIRST-HD it showed benefits for chorea and day to day function
- Longer lasting = fewer side effects than tetrabenazine

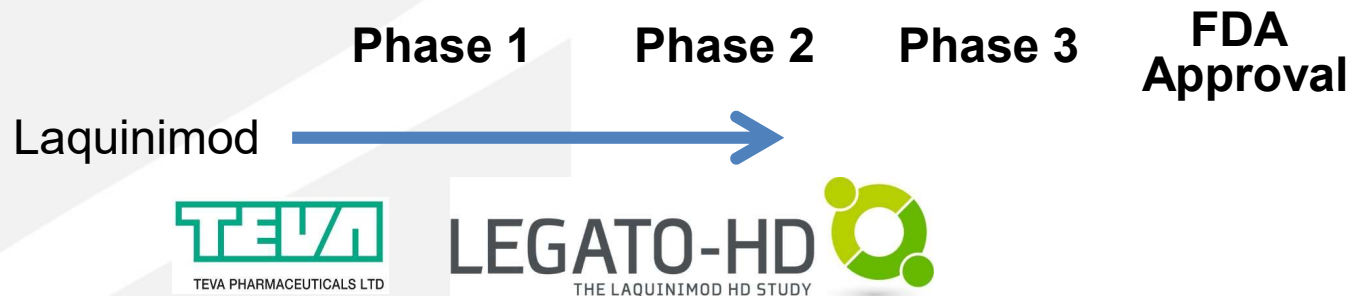
## HD drug trials: ongoing, not currently recruiting



- An oral medication to stabilize dopamine, a neurotransmitter that controls movement and mood
- Did not improve movements, but improved total functional capacity, a measure of how people function in their daily lives
- The Phase III study is currently on hold

<b>OCCUPATION</b> 0 = unable 1 = marginal work only 2 = reduced capacity for usual job 3 = normal
<b>FINANCES</b> 0 = unable 1 = major assistance 2 = slight assistance 3 = normal
<b>DOMESTIC CHORES</b> 0 = unable 1 = impaired 2 = normal
<b>ADL</b> 0 = total care 1 = gross tasks only 2 = minimal impairment 3 = normal
<b>CARE LEVEL</b> 0 = full time skilled nursing 1 = home or chronic care 2 = home

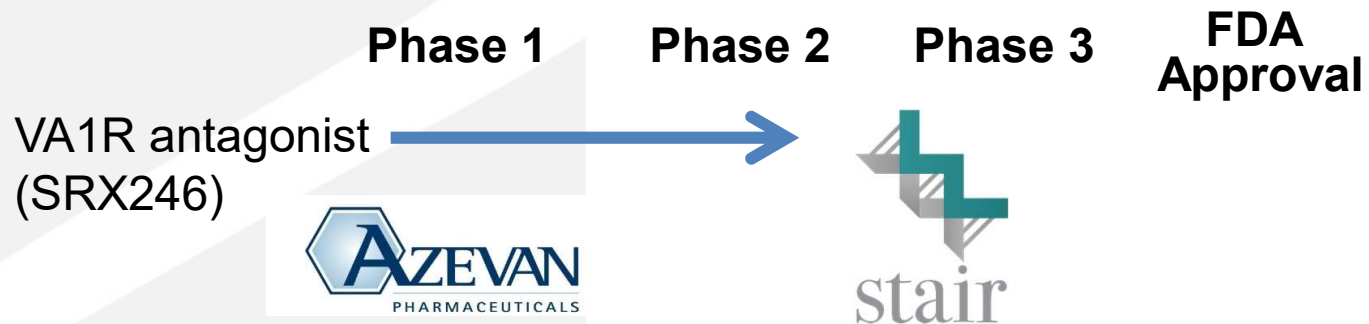
## HD drug trials: ongoing, not currently recruiting



- An oral medication targeting brain inflammation
- Looking mainly at effects on movements but also other symptoms
- In August 2018 this trial unfortunately did not meet its primary endpoint – it did not improve motor symptoms
- However, brain volume shrinkage was slowed somewhat

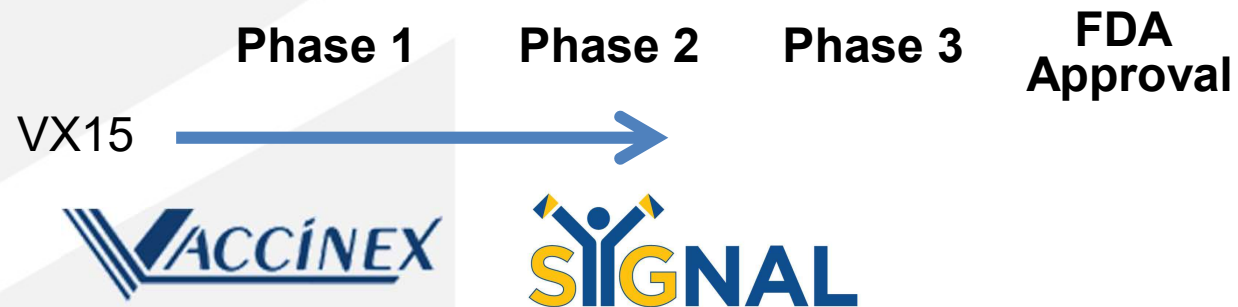


## HD drug trials: just finished recruiting



- A 2x daily oral medication to treat irritability in HD
- Blocks vasopressin receptor 1a which plays a role in anxiety and aggression
- Test in early symptomatic HD patients (108 patients)
- Trial began May 2016 and finished recruiting in Sept 2018

## HD drug trials: enrollment completed



- An antibody given as a monthly IV infusion
- Could modulate brain inflammation and increase growth and health of nerve cells
- Enrollment completed in January 2019
- Effect on the volume of the brain as measured by MRI and other imaging, awaiting report on efficacy.



## Recruiting now



### Phase 1

Sage-718, a drug to treat cognitive changes in HD

- Looking for participants age 18-65 with diagnosed early HD
- Pill taken by mouth 1x/day
- Early safety study involving close monitoring: blood draws, heart and brain wave tracing, urine samples
- Two sites: Long Beach CA and Berlin NJ
- Study lasts 36 days and includes an 18-day hospital stay
- Goal is to address the thinking/behavioral symptoms of HD

[www.hdtrialfinder.org](http://www.hdtrialfinder.org)

Recruiting now

## **Kinect-HD** Neurocrine Biosciences

**Phase 3**

**Valbenazine**, a drug to treat chorea in HD

- Looking for 120 participants, age 18-75, diagnosed with HD
- Pill taken by mouth 1x/day for 12 weeks
- Evaluating efficacy, safety and tolerability
- Recruitment started this month, 50-60 sites (3 in SC)
- Already FDA approved for chorea with tranquilizers, similar to tetrabenazine and deutetabenazine, but less adverse effects

[www.hdtrialfinder.org](http://www.hdtrialfinder.org)



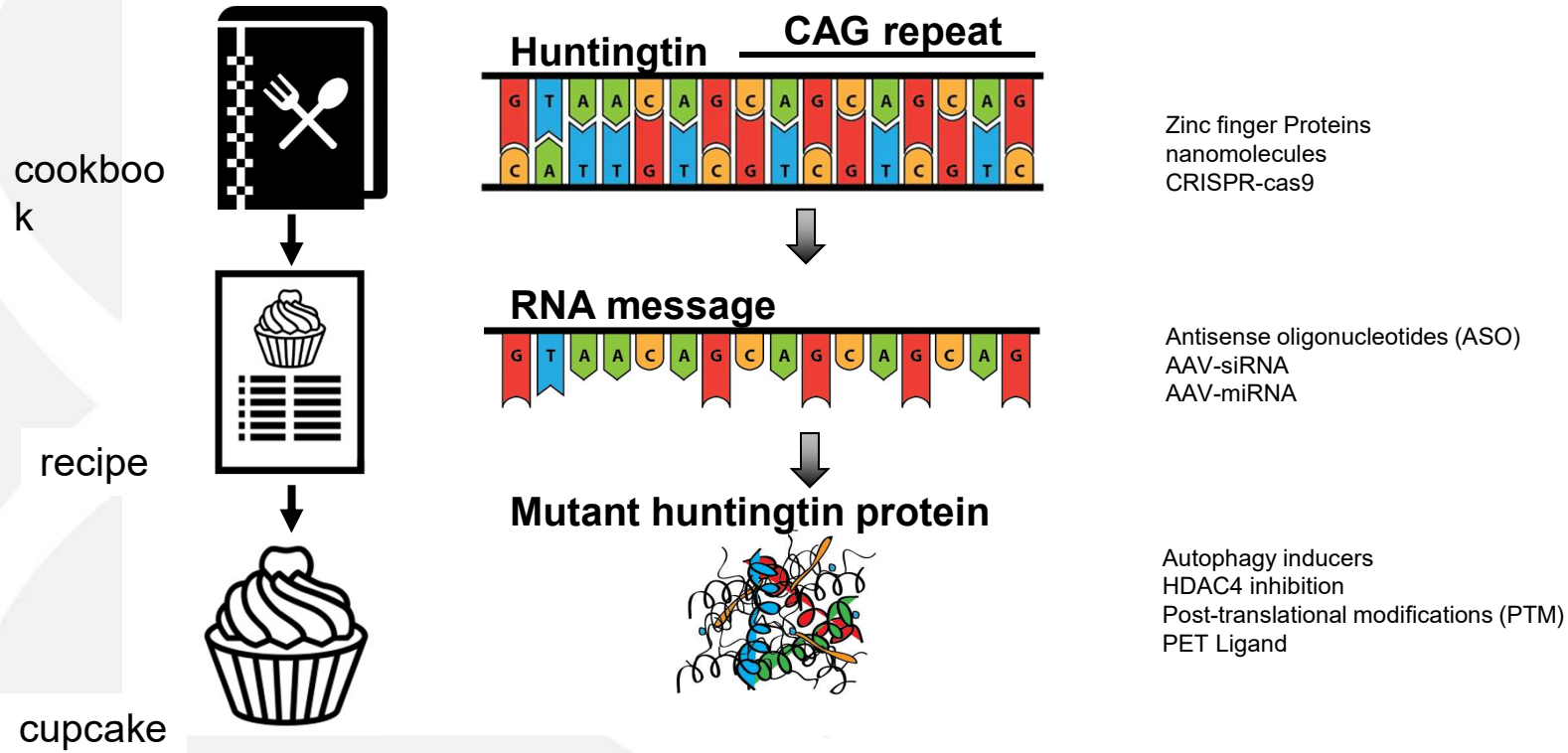
# Huntingtin-lowering



## Gene therapy

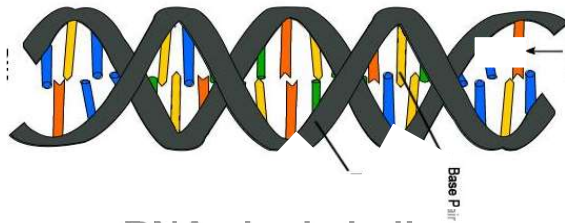
- Promising molecular approach that can impact disease progression by modulating gene expression, either by suppressing deleterious gene or increasing expression of beneficial genes.
- Gene expression can be silenced with anti-sense oligonucleotides (ASO) or small interfering RNA (siRNA).
- In vivo delivery of siRNA and ASO has been shown to be effective in animal models of HD, AD, ALS, SCA.

## The HD gene and huntingtin lowering

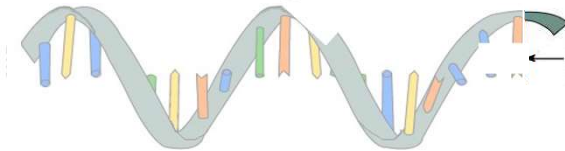


## Huntingtin lowering: antisense oligonucleotides

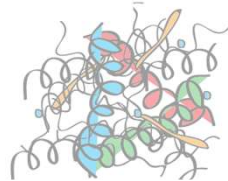
DNA double helix



mRNA single helix



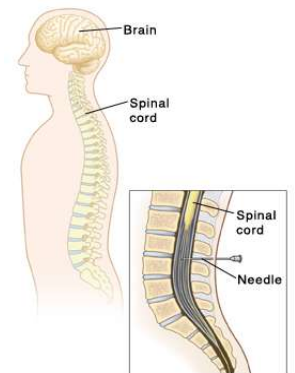
Protein 3D structure



Antisense oligonucleotide (ASO)



Less huntingtin RNA =  
less harmful protein



Slow or stop disease progression?



## Huntingtin lowering ASO: / Genentech

- Small Phase 1/2 trial in 2015-2017 found that this ASO drug (RG6042) was SAFE and lowered huntingtin in participants' spinal fluid.
- Published in May 2019 in NEJM and highlighted on NPR



The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Targeting Huntingtin Expression in Patients with Huntington's Disease

Sarah J. Tabrizi, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., Blair R. Leavitt, M.D., C.M., G. Bernhard Landwehrmeyer, M.D., Edward J. Wild, M.B., B.Chir., Ph.D., Carsten Saft, M.D., Roger A. Barker, M.R.C.P., Ph.D., Nick F. Blair, M.B., B.S.,\* David Craufurd, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.Psych., Josef Priller, M.D., Hugh Rickards, M.D., Anne Rosser, M.B., B.Chir., Ph.D., Holly B. Kordasiewicz, Ph.D., Christian Czech, Ph.D., Eric E. Swayze, Ph.D., Daniel A. Norris, Ph.D., Tiffany Baumann, B.S., Irene Gerlach, Ph.D., Scott A. Schobel, M.D., Erika Paz, B.S., Anne V. Smith, Ph.D., C. Frank Bennett, Ph.D., and Roger M. Lane, M.D.



3:37

+ PLAYLIST

DOWNLOAD

EMBED

TRANSCRIPT

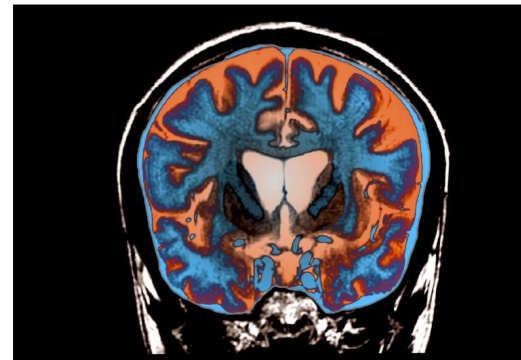


TREATMENTS

### Experimental Drug For Huntington's Disease Jams Malfunctioning Gene

May 9, 2019 - 5:25 PM ET  
Heard on All Things Considered

 RICHARD HARRIS 



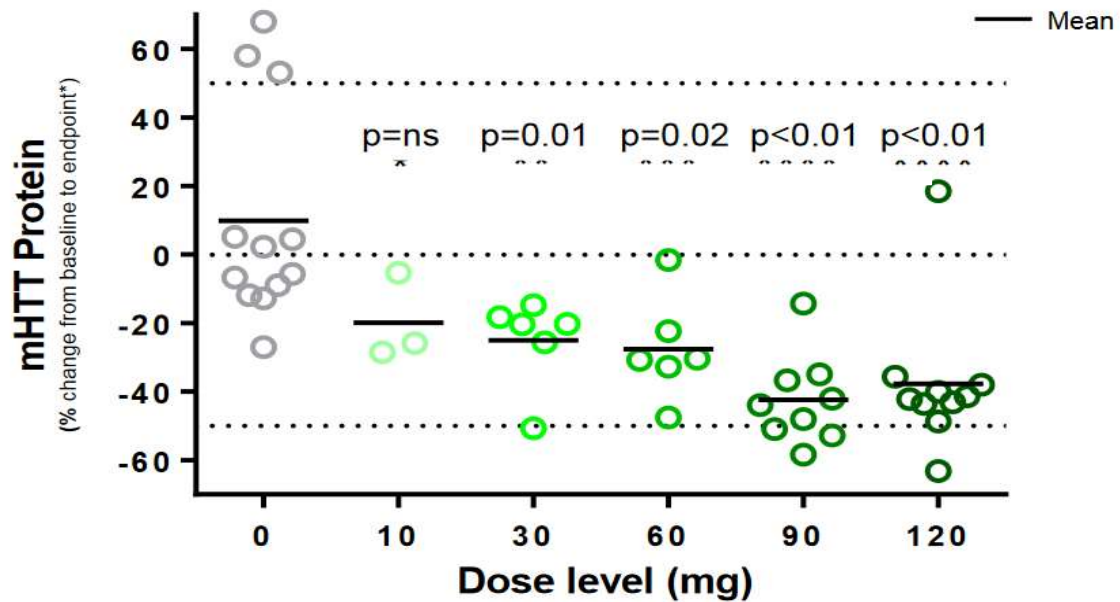
Huntington's Disease  
Society of America

## Ionis-HTTrx: intrathecal application well tolerated

<b>Side effect or event</b>	<b>Placebo group (12 people)</b>	<b>Drug group (34 people)</b>
<b>Pain during the procedure</b>	50%	56%
<b>Post lumbar puncture syndrome</b>	42%	35%
<b>Headache</b>	50%	18%
<b>Cold symptoms</b>	17%	21%
<b>Falls</b>	25%	21%

# Demonstrates Dose-dependent Reduction in CSF mHTT

## mHTT Protein Percent Change from Baseline at Trough After 3 or 4 Monthly Doses



## Huntingtin lowering ASO: Generation-HD1

- A **Phase 3** trial of **RG4062** is underway, called **GENERATION-HD1**.
- There will be 660 participants, aged 25-65, with diagnosed manifest HD.
- All sites in the United States have finished recruiting.
- Each person participates for 2 years. It could take 3-4 years or more to find out the results.



**660 Participants**  
**90 Sites**  
**18 Countries**

ASO every 2 months

Alternating ASO and placebo  
every 2 months

Placebo every 2 months

# Important questions to answer about RG6042



## DOSING

*What is the optimal dosing strategy for efficacy, safety and tolerability?*



## SAFETY

*Do any safety concerns emerge when we treat a larger group of people for a longer time?*



## CLINICAL BENEFIT

*Does sustained treatment slow or stop the progression of Huntington's disease?*

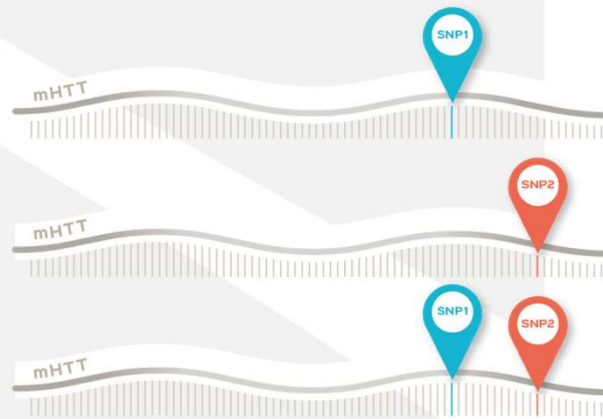
## Huntingtin lowering:



PRECISION  HD 1

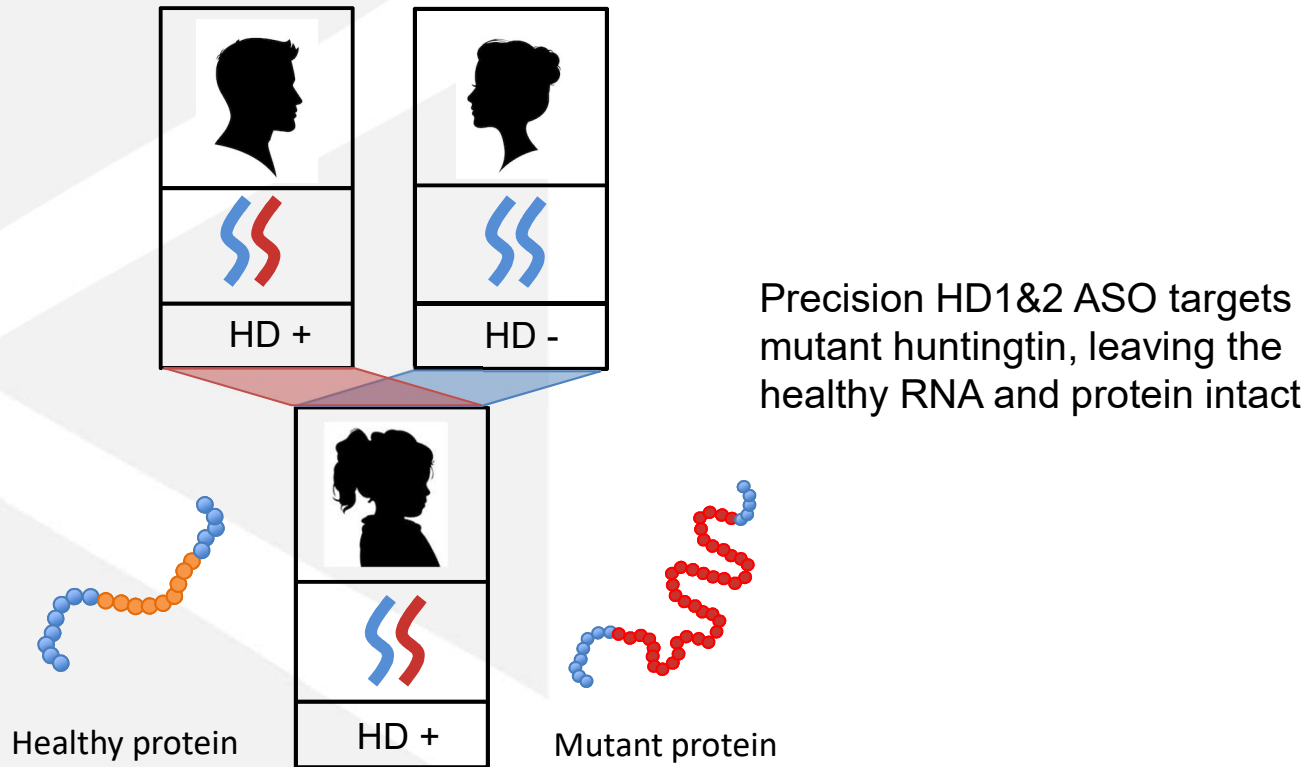
PRECISION  HD 2

- Phase 1/2 trial to understand whether this ASO drug is SAFE.
- There are two separate trials of the Wave drug underway, called **PRECISION-HD1** and **PRECISION-HD2**.
- 60 early manifest HD patients per trial; US sites have finished recruiting.
- Results from these studies are expected in late 2019.



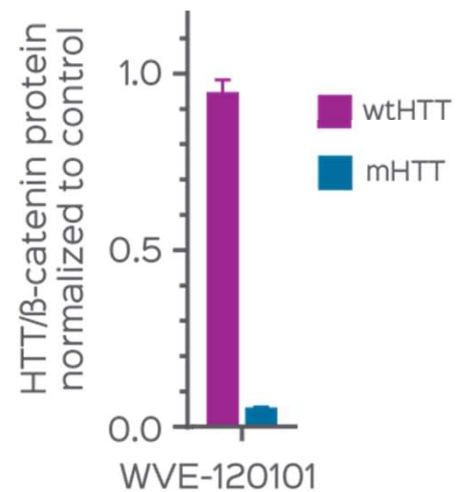
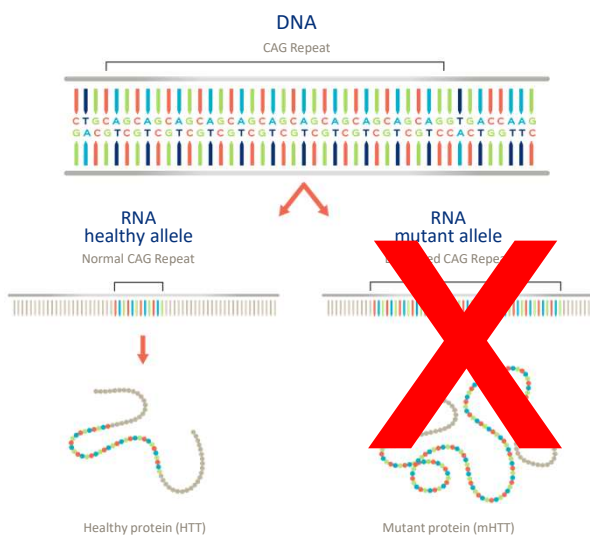
- Only people with either of two genetic markers (SNPs) in their HD gene could receive this drug
- The SNP is like a GPS signal directing the drug to the right spot.
- Around 70% of people with the HD gene have SNP1, SNP2, or both.

## Huntingtin lowering ASO: Precision HD



## A targeted approach to mutant huntingtin lowering:

### PRECISION HD



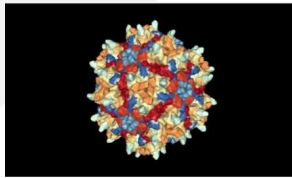
These ASOs target mutant huntingtin, leaving the normal RNA and protein intact

Pharmaceutical  
Canada



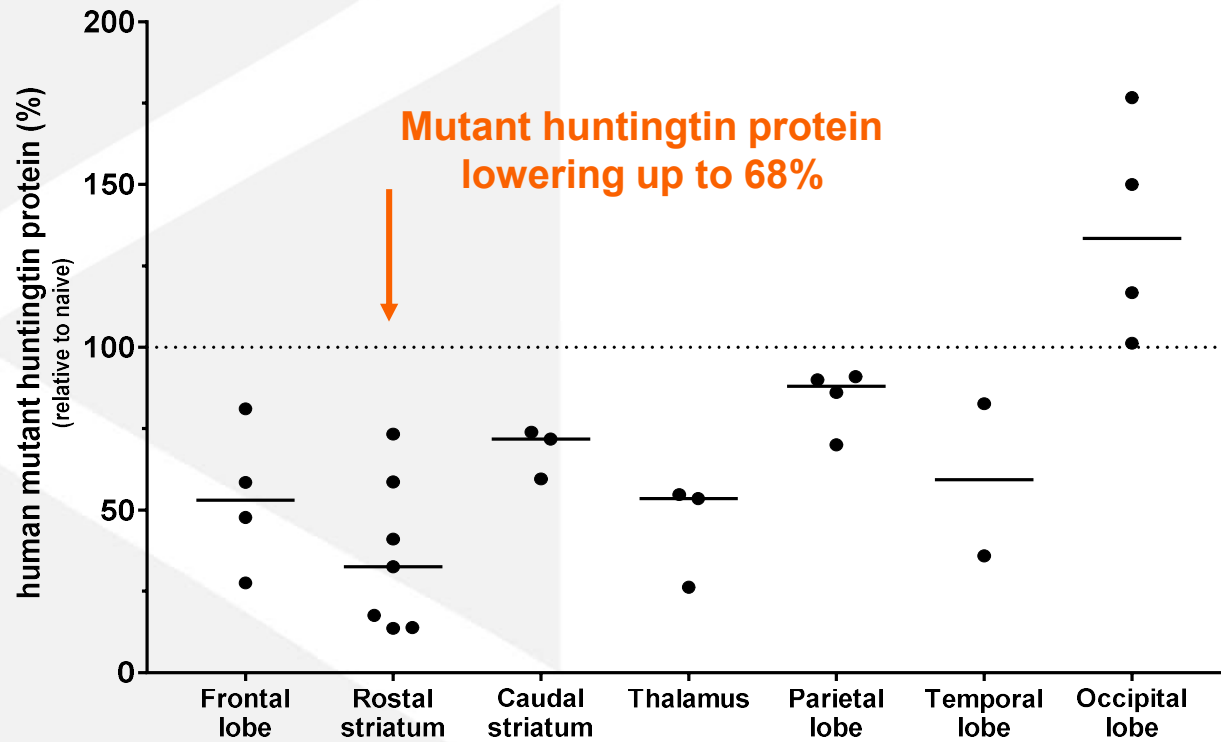


## Huntingtin lowering: treating HD with RNA interference by using AAV vector

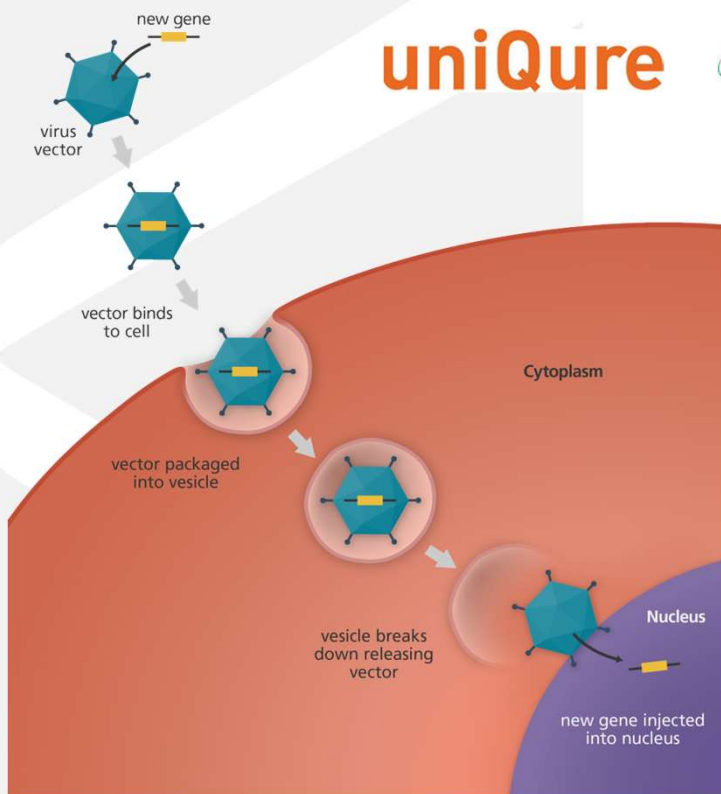


- AMT-130 consists of benign adeno associated virus (AAV) vector carrying an artificial small RNA tailored to silence the huntingtin gene and mutant protein production (mHTT)
- In animal models have demonstrated promising effects
- In April 2019 Fast Track designation by the USFDA;
- Phase 1b/2a trial started this month
- POSSIBLY ONE TIME TREATMENT, WITH LIFELONG EFFECT

shows promising data (in minipigs)



## Huntingtin lowering: RNA interference using viruses

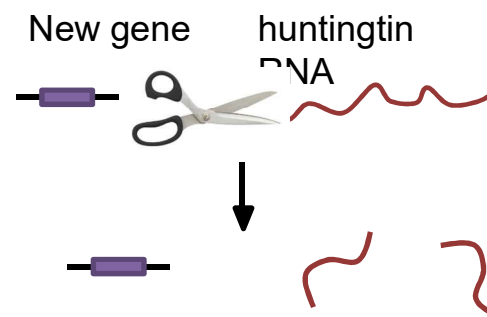


uniQure

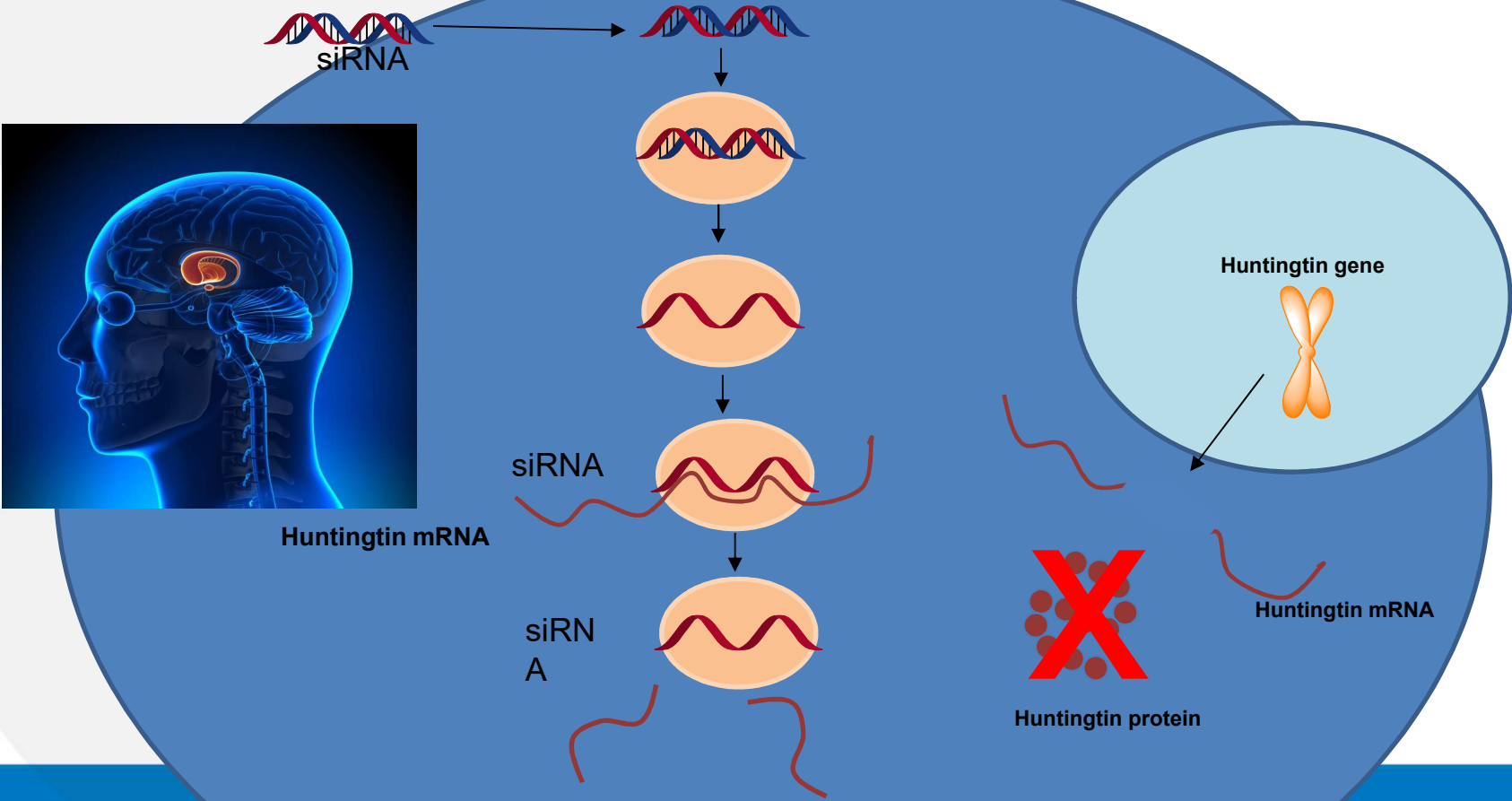
Voyager  
THERAPEUTICS

Spark  
THERAPEUTICS

- Gene therapy
- Single intervention (brain surgery)
- Permanent
- Potent silencing



# Treating HD with RNA interference by using AAV

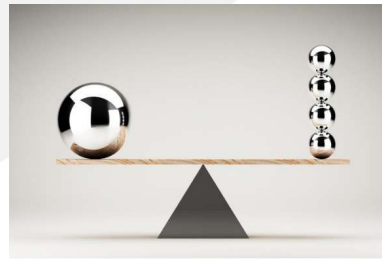


## RNA interference using AAV viruses: first HD gene therapy trial underway

- Phase 1/2 trial to understand whether this gene therapy drug is **SAFE**.
  - Only 26 participants, 16 will receive drug, 10 placebo
  - Will require surgery to deliver the virus directly to the brain
  - 18 month study with 5 year follow-up
  - Neurological exams, MRI, blood and spinal fluid collection
  - Current sites in Columbus OH, Richmond VA, and Houston TX
- Eligibility:
  - Diagnosed, early manifest HD
  - 44 CAG repeats or more in HD gene
  - Ages 25-65
- Enrollment began late October 2019
- Updates on sites and enrollment at [www.hdtialfinder.org](http://www.hdtialfinder.org) and [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).



## Obstacles to Human Gene Silencing in HD



- Delivery requires intrathecal approach (LP, surgery).
- ASO effects are time limited and require repeated dosing.
- siRNA AAV application requires stereotactic brain application.
- **Need to ensure that siRNA selectively suppresses the mutated gene and avoid “off target” (lifelong) effects.**
- Entire brain needs to be treated, across all brain regions.

## Huntingtin lowering: small molecules

The holy grail of HD treatments:

- A pill taken by mouth
- No needles or surgery
- Adjustable dose
- Gets into the brain
- Lowers huntingtin all over the body

Work in HD mice suggests this is possible



Novartis clinical trial to begin \_\_\_\_\_

## HD Clinical Research: **Enroll-HD**



Enroll-HD is a global observational study open to people who have HD or who are at risk.

### What's involved?

- Annual visits (about 1-2 hours)
- Health questions (thinking, behaviors, feelings, lifestyle)
- Neurological exam
- Blood sample for genotyping and bio-banking
- Family history (optional)
- Travel support is available

**More than 18,800 participants worldwide**



## What are the goals of **Enroll-HD** ?

- To increase our understanding of HD in people by monitoring how symptoms appear and change over time
- To study the best clinical practices for HD care
- To improve the design of clinical trials to give us clear answers more quickly
- To accelerate the discovery and development of new treatments

## How does **Enroll-HD** accelerate research?

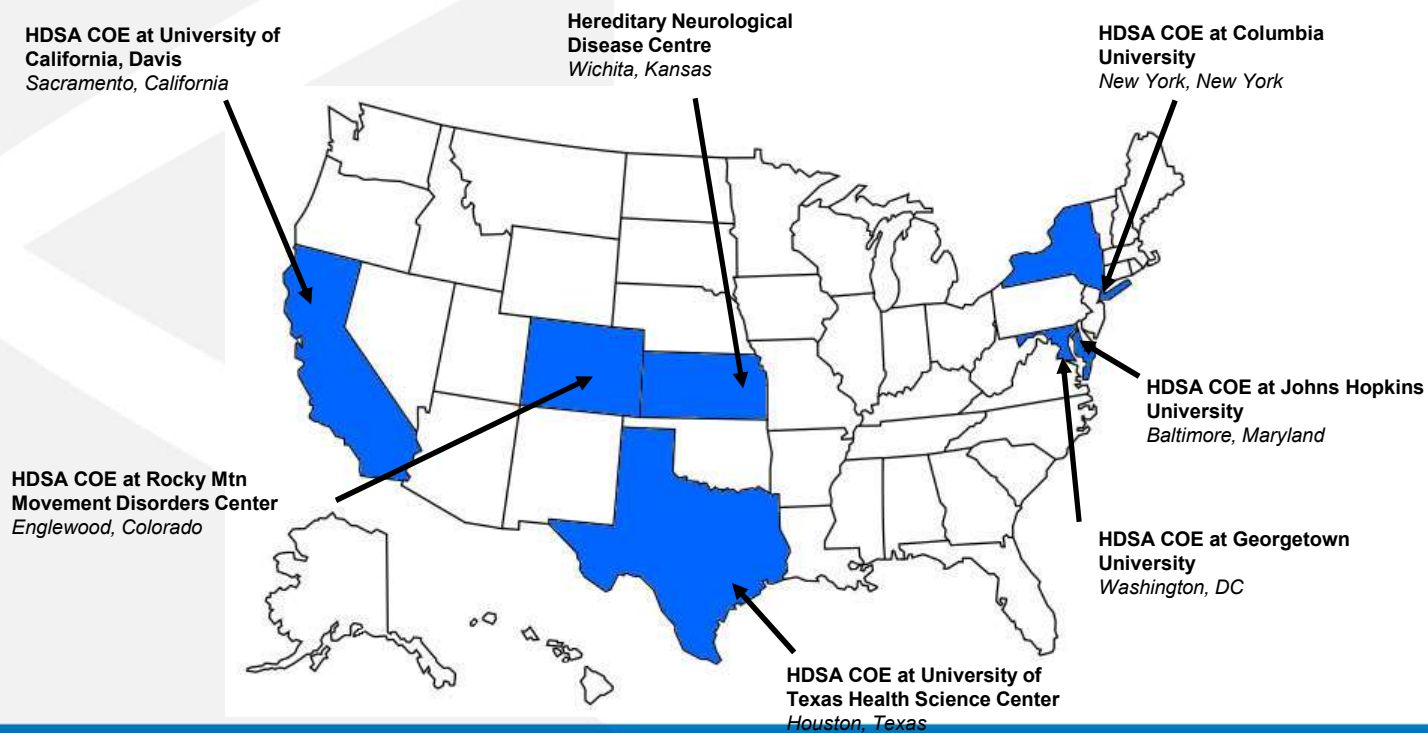
- **More people undergoing the exact same evaluations** means greater likelihood to uncover new things about HD.
- **More scientists around the world working on HD:** the data is available to any scientist with a legitimate research project devoted to understanding HD
- **Research platform for future trials:** It lays out a “welcome mat” for researchers and pharmaceutical companies to study HD
  - Enroll-HD creates a database of potential volunteers for future studies, including drug trials



COME ON IN  
AND DO SOME  
RESEARCH

# How does **Enroll-HD** drive site selection?

## Example: Roche Natural History Study Sites





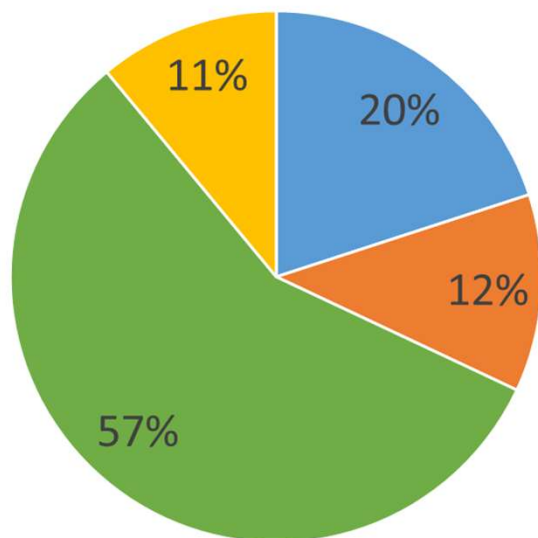
## Roche-Genentech Announce the 20 “Expected” Generation HD1 US Trial Sites

- Alabama, Birmingham - University of Alabama
- Arizona, Phoenix - Barrow Neurological Clinic
- California, Davis - University of California, Davis
- California, Palo Alto - Stanford University
- California, Pasadena - Arcadia Neurology Center
- California, San Diego - University of California, San Diego
- Colorado, Englewood - Rocky Mountain Movement Disorders Center
- District of Columbia, Washington - Georgetown University
- Florida, Tampa - University of South Florida
- Illinois, Evanston - Northwestern University
- Maryland, Baltimore - John Hopkins University
- Massachusetts, Amherst - Dent Institute
- Massachusetts, Boston - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Missouri, St Louis - Washington University
- New York, New York - Columbia University
- Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- Tennessee, Nashville - Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Texas, Houston - University of Texas Health Science Center
- Utah, Salt Lake City - University of Utah
- Washington, Kirkland - Evergreen Health

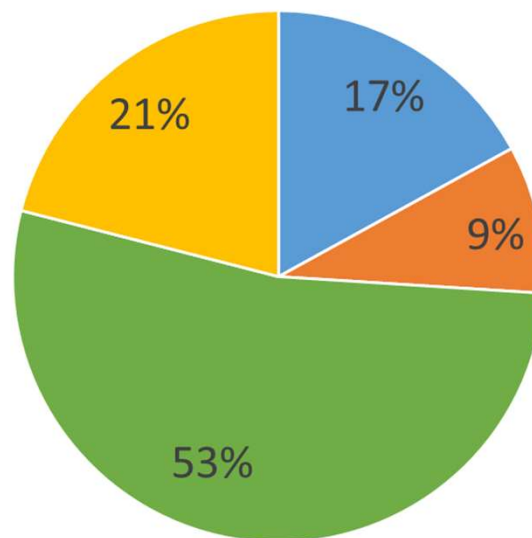


is focusing on premanifest HD

Before January 2018



Today



■ negative/control ■ unknown ■ manifest ■ premanifest

# Huntington's disease: Enroll-HD contribution

## Relationship Between CAG Repeat Number and Disease Expression

No. of CAG repeats	Outcome
$\leq 28$	Normal range; individual will not develop Huntington's disease
29-34	Individual will not develop Huntington's disease but the next generation is at risk
35-39	Some, but not all, individuals in this range will develop Huntington's disease; next generation is at risk (incomplete penetrance)
$\geq 40$	Individual will develop Huntington's disease

# Huntington's Disease: Enroll-HD contribution

## Environmental Modifiers

- Substance abuse hastens onset of motor symptoms:
  - tobacco abuse: 2.3 years (males 2.0, females 2.7)
  - alcohol abuse: 1 year (males 0.9, females 1.3)
  - illicit drug abuse\*: 3.3 years (males 2.5, females 4.6)
  - effects more pronounced in women

\*40 % only marijuana abuse

Neurology. 2017 Feb 28;88(9):909-915

# Huntington's Disease: Enroll-HD contribution

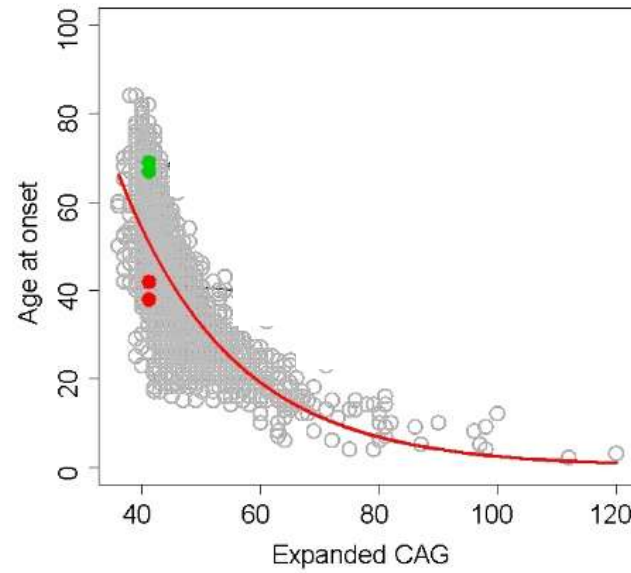
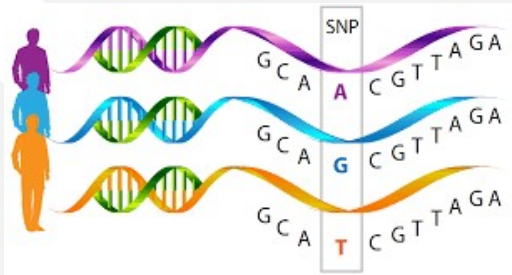
## Genetic Modifiers

- Genes other than Huntingtin gene that affect onset of HD
- Genome-wide association (GWA) analysis by using single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the DNA as genetic markers



## Why does age of onset vary?

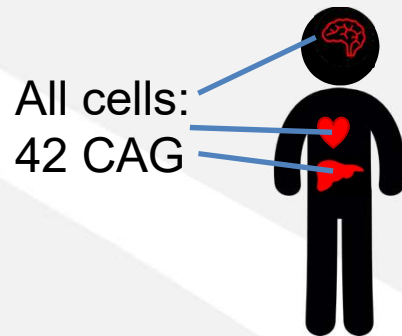
- Genome-wide association studies (GWAS)
- **What other genes matter?**
- Can we harness or block these pathways to delay symptoms?



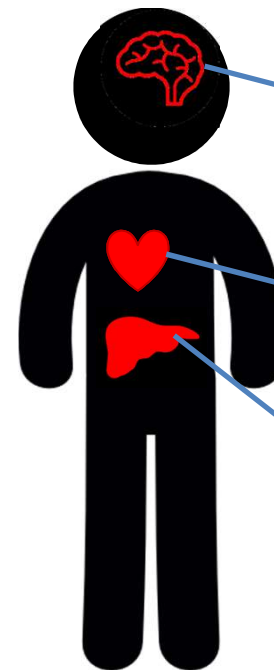
New therapeutic target: DNA repair proteins

Michael Geschwind, HSG meeting 2016

## Importance of DNA repair: CAG repeat instability



Early in life

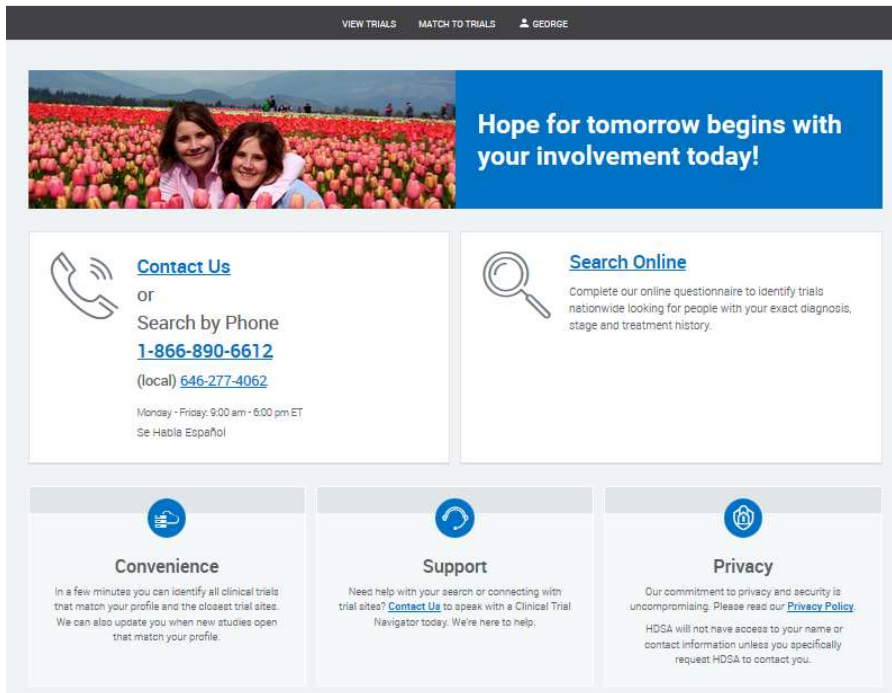


Later in life





# HD Trialfinder: Find a Clinical Trial near you



The screenshot shows the HD Trialfinder website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "VIEW TRIALS", "MATCH TO TRIALS", and a user profile icon labeled "GEORGE". Below this is a banner image of two women in a field of tulips, with a blue overlay containing the text "Hope for tomorrow begins with your involvement today!". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a "Contact Us" section with a phone icon, the text "Search by Phone", the phone number "1-866-890-6612", a local number "646-277-4062", and operating hours: "Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm ET" and "Se Habla Español". The right column features a "Search Online" section with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Complete our online questionnaire to identify trials nationwide looking for people with your exact diagnosis, stage and treatment history." Below these are three service boxes: "Convenience" (with a clock icon), "Support" (with a speech bubble icon), and "Privacy" (with a lock icon). Each box contains a brief description of the service.

- New look, new features and extended call center hours (9-6 EST)
- >3,500 individual profiles signed up
- Most up to date database of North American HD research opportunities

# Create a Profile

1 CREATE PROFILE      2 ANSWER QUESTIONS      3 REVIEW MATCH RESULTS


Profile type (Required)

Who is this Profile For?  
 Myself    Family Member    Friend    My Patient

Address  
  
Enter the address of the person interested in possible study opportunities

Create a Profile Name  
  
From this account you can manage a profile for yourself and also for others you care about

[Continue](#)

 **Request a Contact**

or call toll-free  
**1-866-890-6612**

To review your results with a Clinical Trial Navigator, connect with study teams, learn more about the clinical trial process, and stay updated on new trials.

 All of your information is secure.

# Answer Questions

1 CREATE PROFILE      2 ANSWER QUESTIONS      3 REVIEW MATCH RESULTS

All required questions must be answered before submitting. Leaving this form before successfully submitting your responses will not save the answers marked – you must submit the complete form. ✕

1. What is the date of birth of the HD impacted individual?

Month  Year

2. What is the gender of the HD impacted individual?

Male  
 Female  
 Prefer not to answer

3. Please select the most appropriate diagnosis:

<input type="radio"/> Juvenile Huntington's Disease	<input type="radio"/> At risk for developing HD (genetic status unknown)
<input type="radio"/> Adult onset Huntington's Disease	<input type="radio"/> Gene negative
<input type="radio"/> Undiagnosed (asymptomatic and gene positive)	<input type="radio"/> Spouse or caregiver of an individual with HD
<input type="radio"/> Undiagnosed (exhibiting symptoms and gene positive)	<input type="radio"/> Other condition not listed

 [Request a Consultation](#)

or call toll-free

**[1-866-890-6612](tel:1-866-890-6612)**

To review your results with a Clinical Trial Navigator, connect with study teams, learn more about the clinical trial process, and stay updated on new trials.

# Personalized Trial Info Now at Your Fingertips

VIEW TRIALS MATCH TO TRIALS GEORGE

**Match Results (20)**

**Browse**

Your clinical trial matches are organized under the tabs below by trial type. Within each tab, results are organized by phase but can be re-ordered by clicking the word Title or Phase at the top of the column.

**Read**

Click on trial titles to learn more about each opportunity. Click the star in the rightmost column to bookmark trials for future reference. To view additional locations for a particular trial, click on the location drop down list to view all locations.

**Act**

We recommend you [Request a Consultation](#) or call toll-free [1-866-890-6612](tel:1-866-890-6612) to review your results with a Clinical Trial Navigator, connect with study teams, learn more about the clinical trial process, and stay updated on new trials.

Call [1-866-890-6612](tel:1-866-890-6612) or [Request a Consultation](#) to identify clinical trials that match your diagnosis, treatment history and location.

Clinical Studies (8)

Registries (1)

Biomarker and Imaging Studies (5)

Quality of Life Studies (6)

Title	Phase	Interventions	Drugs	Location	
VX15/2503 Treatment for Huntington's Disease	2	Immunotherapy	VX15/2503	USA - NY - New York, 10032 5 miles away	☆ 📞
Tolerability, Safety, and Activity of SRX246 in Irritable Subjects With Huntington's Disease	1 / 2	Vasopressin Antagonist	SRX-246	USA - NY - New York, 10032 5 miles away	☆
Safety and Tolerability of WVE-120102 in Patients With Huntington's Disease (PRECISION-HD2)	1 / 2	Huntingtin lowering antisense oligonucleotide	WVE-120102	Canada - Toronto, M3B 2S7 343 miles away	☆ 📞
Safety and Tolerability of WVE-120101 in Patients With Huntington's Disease (PRECISION-HD1)	1 / 2	Huntingtin lowering antisense oligonucleotide	WVE-120101	Canada - Toronto, M3B 2S7 343 miles away	☆ 📞
The Effects of Cognition on Balance and Gait in Huntington's disease	0	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Tests, Observational/Monitorir		USA - IL - Chicago, 60612 714 miles away	☆ 📞
Cooperative Huntington's Observational Research Trial	Not Specified	Other	Not Applicable	USA - NY - New York, 10065 3 miles away	☆
Efficacy of tDCS for Improving Gait in HD	Not Specified	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Tests, Observational/Monitorir		USA - IN - Bloomington, 47405 672 miles away	☆ 📞
Evaluating Wearable Sensors For Objective Measurement of Movement Disorder Symptoms – A Pilot Study	Not Specified	Data Collection, Device	Not Applicable	USA - NY - Rochester, 14618 247 miles away	☆ 📞

Columbia University Medical Center

Paula Wasserman, Study Coordinator

Phone Number 212-305-4597

Fax Number 212-305-2526

Email [pl2032@oum.columbia.edu](mailto:pl2032@oum.columbia.edu)

Close



Local and observational studies:  **HD**Trialfinder



Worldwide registries  
Global observational studies  
Sample collection initiatives  
Brain and organ donation

Smaller local trials  
Exercise and imaging studies  
Non-drug interventions  
Nationwide surveys



Learn

Participate

**HDBuzz**



**HD Trialfinder**

THIS WEEK IN  
HUNTINGTON'S  
DISEASE  
RESEARCH

*Centers of  
Excellence*

**THANK YOU!!!**



SC 2019 Family Education Day

Lunch Break:  
Until 1:30



SC 2019 Family Education Day

**SPEAKER:**

**Celena Brown, MA, CCC-SLP**

Celena Brown has a BA in Biology and her MA in Speech Language Pathology from SC State University. She has 23 years of experience, the majority of that time with adults in long term care. She is currently an outpatient specialist with Prisma. She is experienced in the evaluation and treatment of dysphagia, including modified barium swallow and fiber optic endoscopic swallow evaluation, cognition, and communication. Celena Brown has joined the SC HDSA Center of Excellence and serves as the primary speech and language disorder specialist



# The Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist with Huntington's Disease Patients

CELENA BROWN, MACCC-SLP



# Points of Interest

- ▶ Dysphagia management for patients with Huntington's Disease (HD).
- ▶ Assisting with communication skills to make wants/needs known.
- ▶ Identifying cognitive deficits in patients with HD.
- ▶ The Speech-Language Pathologist as an interdisciplinary team member for the HD patient.

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# Speech-Language Pathologist

- ▶ Speech-Language Pathologist(SLP) works to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults, as defined by American Speech-Language Association (ASHA).

---




# REFFERAL

- ▶ -Receipt of information
- ▶ -Identify risk factors
- ▶ -Discussion of management
- ▶ -Build relationships

---



Types of  
Evaluations



Swallowing  
Communication  
Cognitive



# BEDSIDE SWALLOW EVALUATION

A BEDSIDE SWALLOW EVALUATION IS COMPLETED TO IDENTIFY, IF YOU HAVE DYSPHAGIA. DYSPHAGIA IS THE MEDICAL TERM USED TO DESCRIBE DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING.

---



-

Go to PDF



## Postures to Enhance Safe Eating

- Sit as close to table as possible-place elbows on the table to stabilize the upper body.
- Place a pillow or wedge cushion at the back to support the body to stay forward.
- Be sure feet are flat on the floor, or place a box or stool under the feet for support.



## Strategy: Pay attention to texture

- **Particulates:** little pieces of food or foods that break into particles/pieces in the mouth. *ie: peanuts, rice, popcorn, peanut M & M's, corn*
- **Crunchy:** raw vegetables like carrots, broccoli, apples, some crackers or chips
- **Chewy:** might be difficult to chew it completely. *ie., dense breads/bagels, dense meat like steak or pork chops*
- **Stringy:** celery, lettuce, pineapple, fruit with skins like grapes or apples





## Strategy: Diet modifications

- Eliminate certain foods from the diet
- Change from a Regular diet to a Soft diet
  - Cut meats into small pieces
  - Grind and moisten meats
  - Cook all vegetables
  - Limited options with fresh fruit
  - Introduce canned fruit, applesauce, baked fruit

## Strategy: Diet Modifications in Later Stages

- Transition from a Soft diet to a Ground or Pureed diet
  - Dysphagia Diet - Levels 1, 2, 3 may be recommended by a Speech Pathologist
  - People with HD will have increased dependence on others for assistance with feeding
  - Might be a struggle to get enough calories each day
  - Supplements, high calorie shakes, 1000 Calorie Shake, Super Cereal, etc. can help



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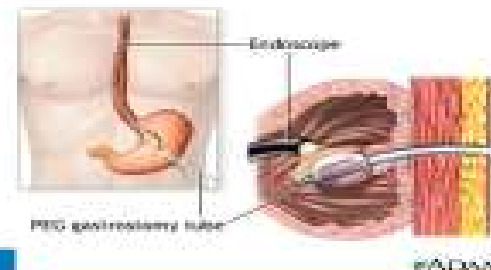


# Alternate Means Of Nutrition

## Indications

- Tube feeding is used when someone is unable to consume an adequate amount of food.
- Tube feeding can be used as a supplement to oral intake of foods and/or fluids, or as a sole means of providing nutrition.
- Tube feeding can be used on a temporary basis, when a medical condition does not allow the person to eat normally

**Talk to your loved one and a medical professional about the different options before they become necessary.**





## A pastry cutter or potato masher



## A blender and/or food processor





# Dishes with sides



## A “keep warm” dish



# Sports Cups



## Utensils with larger handles



---



# SWALLOW STRATEGIES

- 
- POSITIONING
  - BOLUS SIZE
  - RATE OF SPEED
  - UTENSILS/DEVICES
  - ENVIRONMENT
  - LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

## Dental Care

- See your dentist regularly
- Brush after meals and snacks
- Remember to floss
- Talk to your dentist about special issues and problems like dry mouth.





## Key Points

- ✓ See a Speech Pathologist (SLP) for a baseline exam and tips/ strategies for safe swallowing
- ✓ See an Occupational Therapist for ideas for adaptive equipment
- ✓ Look out for signs of trouble swallowing
- ✓ Changing the texture of the food can help.
- ✓ Tube feeding can be an option when someone is unable to consume an adequate amount of food, as well as in other situations like medical crises.

[Back to Module list](#)

---



# Communication Evaluation



COMMUNICATION IS THE  
IMPARTING OR  
INTERCHANGE OF  
THOUGHTS, OPINIONS, OR  
INFORMATION BY SPEECH,  
WRITING, OR SIGNS.



# Dysarthria

A speech disorder caused by muscle weakness. It can make it hard for you to talk. People may have trouble understanding what you say.

# Characteristics

SLURRED SPEECH WITH POOR  
SPEECH INTELLIGIBILITY

A. IMPAIRED LIP AND TONGUE  
POSTURING

B. DISCOORDINATION OF  
MOVEMENTS

C. DECREASED RESPIRATORY  
CONTROL FOR VOCAL  
LOUDNESS AND SUSTAINED  
PHONATION

# Treatment

1. ORAL MOTOR EXERCISES TO INCREASE ROM/STRENGTH/COORDINATION
2. BREATHING EXERCISES
3. COGNITIVE DEFICITS MAY LEAD TREATMENT TOWARDS AWARENESS, SELF MONITORING AND IMPULSIVITY.
4. USE OF AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION WITH PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE.

---



# Cognitive Evaluation

COGNITION IS THE MENTAL ACTION OR PROCESS OF ACQUIRING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THOUGHT, EXPERIENCE, AND THE SENSES.

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# Domains of Cognitive Skills

- ▶ Attention
- ▶ Memory
- ▶ Problem solving
- ▶ Reasoning
- ▶ Executive Function
- ▶ Visuospatial Function

# Strategies to Assist with Cognitive Function

1. SPEAK SLOWLY, CONCISE, AND CLEAR.
2. ALLOW TIME TO RESPOND.
3. ASK SHORT MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.
4. ASK YES/NO QUESTIONS
5. IDENTIFY NON VERBAL BEHAVIORS AS CUES TO NEEDS.
6. ANTICIPATE NEEDS.





## Resources

### **Amazon.com**

- For keep warm dishes

### **Dentist.com**

- For Dr. Barmans and other adaptive toothbrushes



## For More Information

### **Huntington's Disease Society of America**

Website: [www.hdsa.org](http://www.hdsa.org)

E-mail: [hdsainfo@hdsa.org](mailto:hdsainfo@hdsa.org)

National Helpline: (888)HDSA-506

# References

- ▶ Cassidy, J., Imbriglio, S., and Cerrillo, L. (2007). A Primer for Speech-Language Pathologists Managing Clients with Huntington's Disease in a Residential Care Facility. *Perspectives on Gerontology*, 12(1), 22-26.
- ▶ Hamilton, A., Heemskerk, A.-W., et al. (2012). Oral Feeding in Huntington's Disease. A Guideline Document For Speech and Language Therapists. *Neurogen. Dis. Manage.* 2(1), 45-53.



## References

### **HDSA Family Guide Series: Nutrition & HD**

Available at [www.hdsa.org/publications](http://www.hdsa.org/publications)

**We Are HDSA:** February 2012 (eating well with HD);  
May 2011 (Food Away from Home)

Available at: <http://www.hdsa.org/articleconnect>

**EHDN Guidelines** (Nutrition, oral feeding, oral  
healthcare) Available at:  
<http://www.hdsa.org/ehdnpubs>



SC 2019 Family Education Day

**SPEAKER:**

**Sydney Phillips, MSW**



Sydney Phillips has a degree in Social Work from the University of South Carolina. She is a Licensed Master's level Social Worker. She currently works at Prisma with the Geriatrics and Palliative Care Teams. She currently focuses on Advance Directives and patients with Serious Illnesses.

# PRISMA HEALTH<sup>SM</sup>

**Having Conversations That Matter**

**Sydney Phillips, LMSW**

# Objectives

- To understand the importance of Advance Care Planning
- To think about health care choices that reflect your values and beliefs
- To make plans to talk about your decisions with loved ones
- To understand the Health Care Power of Attorney Document

# What is Advance Care Planning (ACP)?

ACP is a process that enables individuals to **make plans about their future health care choices**. It allows individuals to take part and be in charge of their health care plan.





# What is Advance Care Planning?

Advance Care Planning is about preplanning the following:

- **Knowing** available future treatment plan for individuals
- **Determining** an individual's future treatment plan goals that align with his/her values
- **Sharing** their decision with their physicians and loved ones
- **Completing** Advance Directive for future reference

Everyone **over the age of 18-years-old** should have ACP conversations and an advance directive completed.



# Why is Advance Care Planning Important?

- The completed Advance Directive will be an **individual's voice**
- The completed Advance Directive will **guide clinicians and families** to honor a person's wishes regarding treatment plans when he/she is too ill to make decisions
- It is a **gift** for loved ones, as it will **ease the burden of decision-making**



# Advance Directives available in South Carolina

(1) South Carolina Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPOA)

(2) Living Will (Declaration of a Desire for a natural death)

(3) Five Wishes

(4) EMS DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) Order

(5) POST (not active yet)

\*Adult Health Care Consent: If you did not have one or any of the advance directives listed above your health care professionals would then move to the health care consent act to guide the clinician for decision making.

# Who makes Health Care decisions for you, when you cannot provide consent?

- (1) A **Guardian** appointed by the court
- (2) An **attorney-in-fact** appointed by the patient in a durable power of attorney , if the decision is within the scope of his/ her authority
- (3) Appointed Health Care Power Of Attorney (**HCPOA**)
- (4) A **spouse** of the patient
- (5) An **adult child** of the patient
- (6) A **parent** of the patient
- (7) An **adult sibling** of the patient
- (8) A **grandparent** of the patient
- (9) Any other **adult relative** by blood or marriage

# South Carolina Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPOA)

This document only comes into effect if, **and only if**, a person is unable to make decisions for themselves.

The HCPOA document allows a person to make **4 important decisions**:

(1) The first decision that will be made is about **appointing an agent**

(2) The second decision is about **organ donation**

The third and fourth decisions pertain to a situation **where an individual's life expectancy is limited or they are permanently unconscious.**

(3) The third decision is about **life-sustaining treatment**

(4) The final decision is about **artificial nutrition and hydration**

This document may be altered or changed at ANY TIME. We suggest that you review this document each year with your loved ones and health care providers because your values, beliefs and wishes may change. You may complete a new document at any time and dispose of the previous one.

# Evidence-Based Benefits of Advance Care Planning Conversations

- Adequate time to make informed decisions and fulfill personal goals
- Higher patient satisfaction
- Enhanced goal-oriented care
- Fewer hospitalizations
- Increased and earlier hospice care
- Improved quality of life
- Better patient and family coping
- Improved bereavement outcomes

# Choosing an Agent

- What should you think about when choosing an agent?
  - Will this person put my values, beliefs and wishes above their own
  - Do they know me well and understand what is important to me
  - Could they handle this responsibility
  - Will they be readily available if something happens/will they be able to get to me in a timely manner
- Who can be an agent?
  - Anyone may be your agent if they are over the age of 18. Ex: Neighbors whom you are close too, Long-Term Partners, Family or Friends
  - Doctors or Health Care Providers who are currently providing you treatment MAY NOT be your agent (Page 2 Section 7)
- What is the agents role?
  - The agents role is to ultimately act as if they are you when making medical decisions for you
  - The agent will speak for you if you are unable to speak for yourself for whatever reason



# Choosing an Agent

## Continued

- When does this come into effect?
  - The Health Care Power of Attorney only comes into effect if you do not have the capacity to make decisions for yourself EX: Coma
- When should I tell that person they are my Health Care Agent?
  - Before you make them your Health Care Agent
  - That person may not feel comfortable making those decisions or they may feel like their value system does not align with what you want

## ACP is appropriate for which of the following people?

- A. A 22 year old female healthy new college graduate who comes to your clinic for birth control and annual physical.
- B. An 88 year old male with end stage COPD who comes to your clinic for medication refills.
- C. A 45 year old female with hypothyroid, obesity, and diabetes who comes to your clinic for routine follow-ups.
- D. All of the above

## ACP is appropriate for which of the following people?

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- D. All of the above



**Who would be the legal health care proxy for an unconscious, unmarried patient with no advanced directive or legal guardian and five adult children?**

- A. Live in girlfriend for two years
- B. The majority of his adult children
- C. Eldest son who is 40 years old from out of town
- D. Youngest daughter, who lives locally and goes to all of the patient's appointments and has the most knowledge about his health
- E. Ex-wife

**Who would be the legal health care proxy for an unconscious, unmarried patient with no advanced directive or legal guardian and five adult children?**

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**Who would be the legal health care proxy for an unconscious, married patient with no advanced directive or legal guardian and two adult children?**

- A. Live in girlfriend for two years
- B. Spouse, from whom he has be separated for four years
- C. Eldest son, who is 40 years old from out of town
- D. Youngest daughter
- E. Sister, who lives locally and goes to all of patient's appointments and has the most knowledge about his health

# Who would be the legal health care proxy for an unconscious, married patient with no advanced directive or legal guardian and two adult children?

- A. Live in girlfriend for two years
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- ➔ C. Eldest son, who is 40 years old from out of town
- D. Youngest daughter
- E. Sister, who lives locally and goes to all of patient's appointments and has the most knowledge about his health

## Tips and Tricks:

- Remember that you will move onto your next patient. This family has to live with their decision forever. Be kind. Reserve judgement.
- These discussions are an ongoing process, not a one time event.
- Remember Ask-Tell-Ask.
- Remember hope/worry, wish/worry language.
- “Tell me more.”
- Warning shots: “I have some serious news to tell you.”
- Do not to give more than three pieces of information at a time.
- You are not responsible for the outcome, only how you show up.



# Communication

## **Communication is KEY**

- Having these conversations with your loved ones and health care providers are extremely important!
- These conversations can help bridge the gap between what is important to YOU and what is important to your loved ones!
- We understand these conversations are hard and we can assist with having these conversations if you are uncomfortable!

## **Where should I keep my HCPOA Document?**

- File Cabinet
- Give one to your primary doctor and if you go to the hospital have them scan a copy into your chart
- Give a copy to your HCPOA
- You could keep one in the glove box of your car
- Keep a copy in a book or a bible

## **Do NOT**

- Keep a copy in a safe that only you know the password too
- Do not keep it in a safety deposit box at the bank

# Questions



# Contact Information:

- Prisma Health Home Health and Prisma Health Hospice
- Please Contact: Sydney Phillips, LMSW
- [sydney.phillips@prismahealth.org](mailto:sydney.phillips@prismahealth.org)
- 803-296-3353

PRISMA

HEALTH<sup>SM</sup>

**November 16, 2019**

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**2019  
SC Family  
Education Day**





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Education Day:  
Resources for Persons and Families Living with Huntington's Disease

**MELISSA REITMEIER, LMSW, PHD**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2019**



# Objectives

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1. Share my role as the HD Social Worker for our Center of Excellence
2. Share resources we through website to launch January 1, 2019
3. <http://www.schd.info>

# Goals

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- ❑ One of the goals of the Huntington's Disease Center of Excellence at Palmetto Health Medical Group and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine is to promote education about Huntington's disease.
- ❑ Our aim is to help patients and families better understand the disease and its progression in order to plan and prepare for the future.
- ❑ Promote access to needed resources





RESOURCES





## New Website

<https://mcreitme.wixsite.com/hdsc>

LAUNCHING/LIVE  
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