

- I would like to acknowledge that we are here today on the land of the Gadigal and Bidjigal peoples.
- I pay my respects to the Elders, community members and the Aboriginal services and organisations across our network who work to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Network.



# Rare Diseases: a team approach

1. Why think about rare diseases
2. Recognising the pattern
3. Genetic testing 101
4. A diagnosis...what next
5. No diagnosis...what next



[Elizabeth.palmer@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Elizabeth.palmer@unsw.edu.au)

# 1. Why think about rare diseases?



# What are the challenges around rare diseases?

There are around 1.2 million people in Australia living with a rare disease – 400,000 of which are children.<sup>1</sup> Up to 80% of these rare diseases are genetic or have a genetic etiology.<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>

## Clinical Impact of Rare Diseases



**50%**

Half of rare diseases impact children<sup>5</sup>



**30%**

30% of children will not survive beyond the age of 5 years<sup>5</sup>



**30%**

About 30% of NICU admissions are related to a genetic condition<sup>6</sup>



**5-7 Years**

For many children, the diagnostic odyssey can last 5-7 years<sup>6-8</sup>



**8 Physicians**

A patient with rare disease may see an average of 8 physicians<sup>8</sup>



**2-3 Misdiagnoses**

A patient may receive 2-3 misdiagnoses before receiving a correct diagnosis<sup>8</sup>



1. Department of Health, Government of Western Australia.

2. Bick D, Jones M, Taylor SL, et al. Case for genome sequencing in infants and children with rare, undiagnosed or genetic diseases. *Journal of Medical Genetics*. Published Online First: 25 April 2019. Doi:10.1136/jmedgenet-2019-106111

3. Global Commission. Ending the diagnostic odyssey for children with a rare disease. Published February 19, 2019.

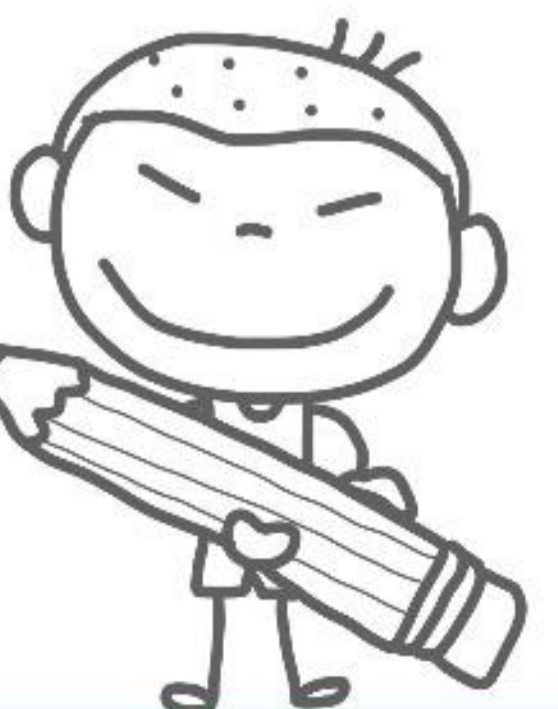
4. Wakap S, Lambert DM, Orly A, et al. *Europ J Hum Genet*. 2019; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41431-019-0508-0>. 7. Ferreira CR. The Burden of Rare Diseases. *American Journal of Medical Genetics*. 2019;179(6):885-892.

5. Eurodis Rare Diseases Europe. About rare diseases. <https://www.eurodis.org/content/what-rare-disease>. Updated June 14, 2019.

# At Sydney Children's Hospitals Network



- 180,000 children in NSW
- >2,000 children referred to genetics departments annually across SCHN



# Rare diseases- where are we going wrong?

- Paucity of rare disease awareness in health care
- Multisystem diseases requiring multispecialist input
- Poorly coordinated care
- No "home" specialty in the health care system
- Lack of effective treatment or lack of access to effective treatment
- Burden of explanation when accessing the health care system
- Medical professionals having less information than them
- Scepticism about rare diseases within health care due to a lack of awareness



[Learn.m4rD.org](http://Learn.m4rD.org)

# Rare diseases- where do we need to be going?



In an ideal world, a patient with a rare disease would have a

- **timely diagnosis,**
- **mental health support,**
- care in a **specialist centre with excellent communication** with their local **hospital and GP,**
- and be backed up with the support of a **patient advocacy group**
- and the hope provided by **research opportunities.**



The Sydney  
children's  
Hospitals Network  
care, advocacy

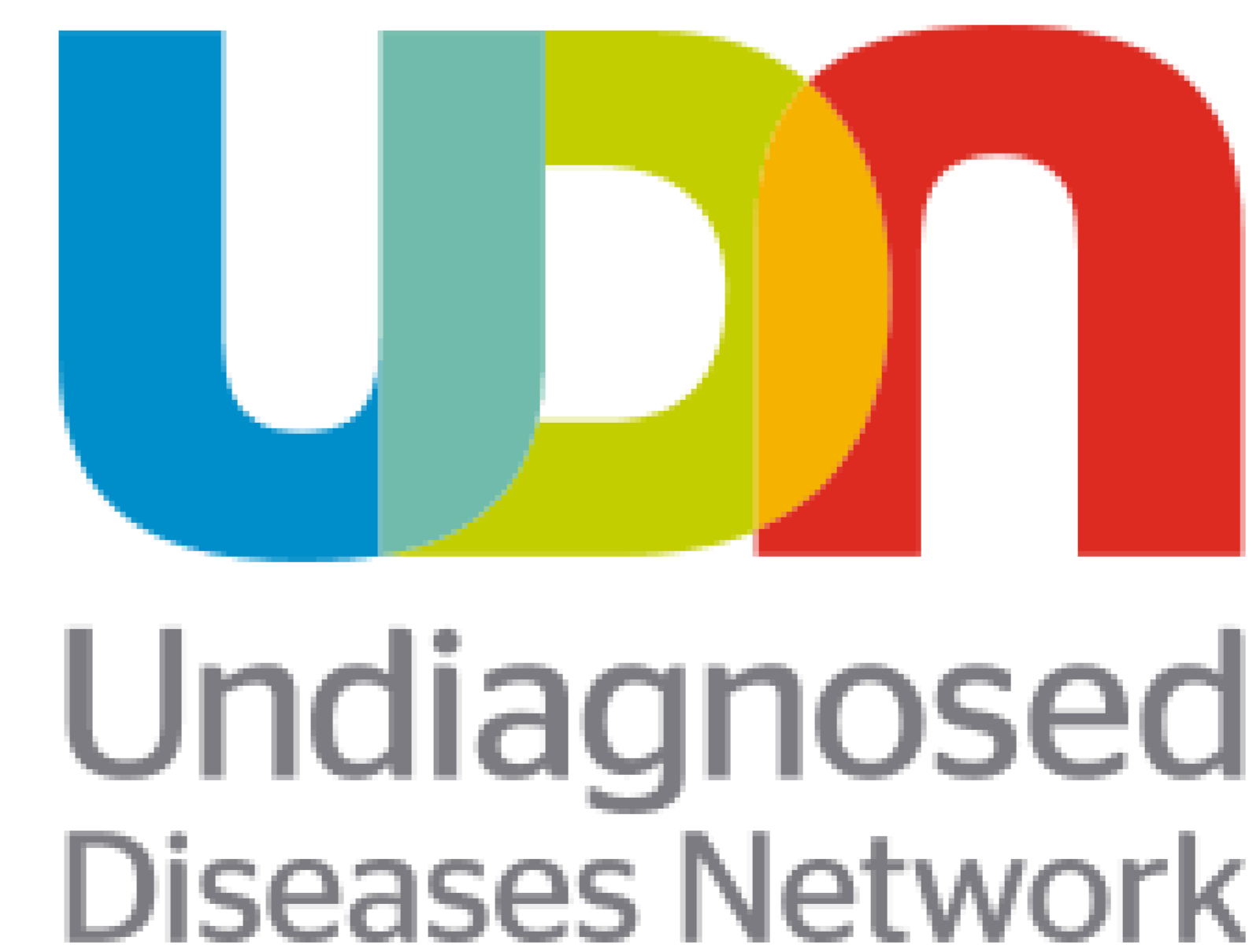
**'No country can claim to have achieved universal healthcare if it has not adequately and equitably met the needs of those with rare diseases.'**

Helen Clark, United Nations  
Development Programme (2009–2017)





# How can we work together to improve outcomes for rare disease patients?



# 2. Early recognition of the rare disease child





The Sydney  
children's  
Hospitals Network

care, advocacy, research, education

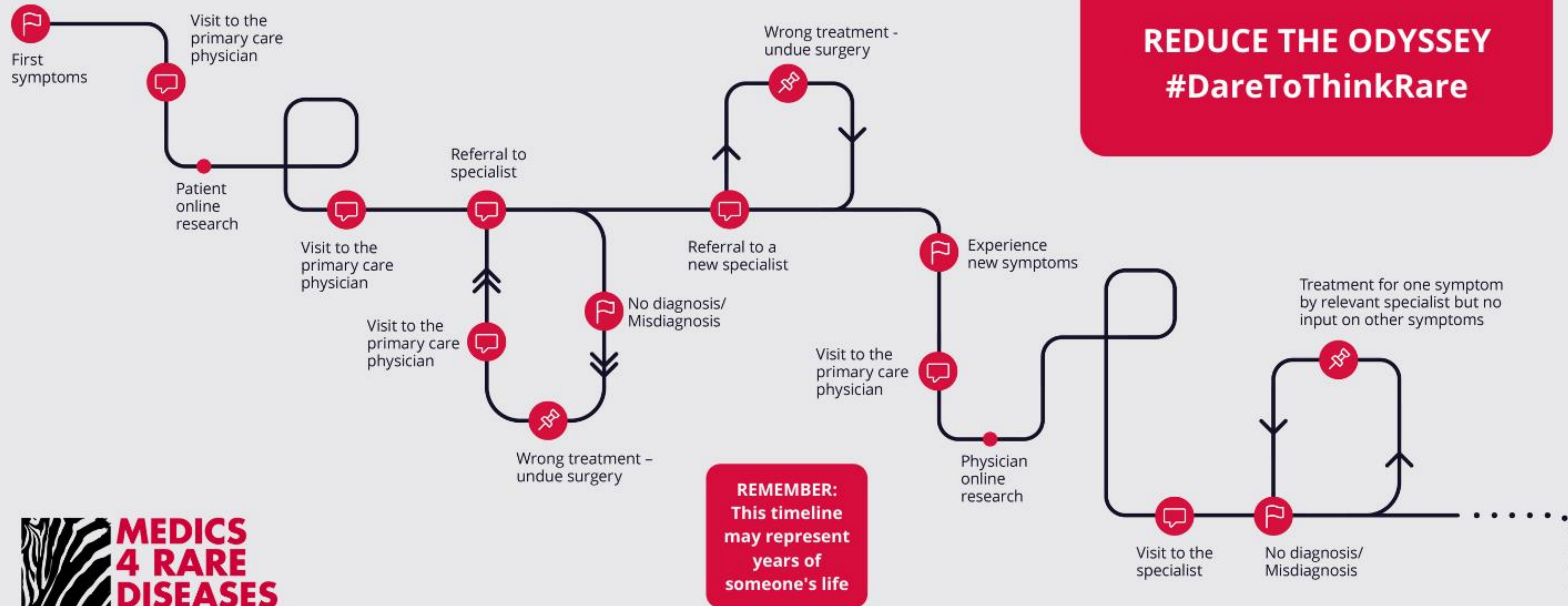
# Case example





# Medical ping pong

## The Early Stages of The Diagnostic Odyssey



This image was created, with permission, based on an original image belonging to the Solve-RD project, the EURORDIS-led Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) which sets out the patient journey to diagnosis, published at the European Society of Human Genetics conference. The original infographic demonstrates the diagnostic odyssey many people experience on a daily basis and presents existing resources from CETF member organizations to support patients on this journey.



## Shortening the diagnostic odyssey

Anxiety,  
frustration

Reproductive  
implications

Medical  
'pilgrimages'

Inappropriate  
treatments

Loss income

Breakdown of  
family  
relationships

- You cannot learn to recognise over 7000 rare diseases but you **can** recognise the **pattern** suggesting that someone might be experiencing the rare disease diagnostic odyssey.





# Recognise rare disease red flags!

**Family** (family history)

**Group** of congenital anomalies

**Extreme/ exceptional** presentation of common conditions

**Neurodevelopmental** delay or degeneration

**Extreme or exceptional** pathology

**Surprising** laboratory values

- This can be applied to prompt the question – “Is this a rare disease?”
- **Family GENES**
- *Family history: multiple affected siblings or individuals in multiple generations. Remember that lack of a family history does NOT rule out genetic causes.*
- **G:** group of congenital anomalies. Common anatomic variations are, well, common; but two or more anomalies are much more likely to indicate the presence of a syndrome with genetic implications.
- **E:** extreme or exceptional presentation of common conditions. Early onset cardiovascular disease, cancer, or renal failure. Unusually severe reaction to infectious or metabolic stress. Recurrent miscarriage. Bilateral primary cancers in paired organs, multiple primary cancers of different tissues.
- **N:** neurodevelopmental delay or degeneration. Developmental delay in the paediatric age group carries a very high risk for genetic disorders. Developmental regression in children or early onset dementia in adults should similarly raise suspicion for genetic etiologies.
- **E:** extreme or exceptional pathology. Unusual tissue histology, such as pheochromocytoma, acoustic neuroma, medullary thyroid cancer, multiple colon polyps, plexiform neurofibromas, multiple exostoses, most paediatric malignancies.
- **S:** surprising laboratory values. Markedly abnormal pathology results.\*



The Red Flags Working Group of the Genetics in Primary Care (GPC) project created the mnemonic “Family GENES” as a red flag for genetic conditions.



## Open access tools

Website	Description
<a href="#">Find Zebra</a>	Open access, web-based tool specifically to assist rare disease diagnosis
<a href="#">Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM)</a>	The OMIM database is a comprehensive compendium of human genes and genetic phenotypes
<a href="#">Phenomizer</a>	An open access, web-based tool to assist diagnosis. <a href="#">A tutorial is available on YouTube.</a>
<a href="#">Orphanet</a>	Search keywords such as a disease or genes
<a href="#">Google</a>	Please try to use Dr Google only after using these brilliant rare disease tools...



Table adapted from [racgo.org.au](http://racgo.org.au)



# FindZebra

## Rare Disease Search

Q cryptorchidism, bleeding problem, short stature, low set ears,

Search

[Advanced](#)

Disclaimer: Our website The search is conducted FindZebra do not supply information provided by direct, incidental, consec searches, including virus when you leave the findz

cryptorchidism, bleeding problem, short stature, low set ears,

Search

[Advanced](#)

Diseases (12112)  Genes

### Noonan Syndrome [Medlineplus](#)

It is characterized by mildly unusual facial features, **short stature**, heart defects, **bleeding problems**, skeletal malformations, and many other signs and symptoms. People with Noonan syndrome have distinctive facial features such as a deep groove in the area between the nose and mouth (philtrum), widely spaced eyes that are usually pale blue or blue-green in color, and **low-set ears** that are rotated backward. ... Many children with Noonan syndrome have a **short** neck, and both children and adults may

PTPN11, RAF1, KRAS, SOS1, LZTR1, RIT1, SHOC2,



[Related articles](#)

### Otofacioosseous-Gonadal Syndrome [Oimim](#)

The syndrome consisted of sensorineural deafness, **short stature**, **cryptorchidism**, inguinal hernia, brachycephaly, prominent forehead, flat face, downslanting palpebral fissures, **low** nasal root, hypoplastic alae and round tip to the nose, **low-set** prominent **ears**, narrow thorax, genu valgum, wormian bones, fusion of carpal bones, delayed bone age, and congenital clubfoot. ... INHERITANCE - Autosomal recessive GROWTH Height - **Short stature** HEAD & NECK Head - Brachycephaly Face - Prominent forehead - Flat face **Ears** - Sensorineural deafness - **Low set ears** - Prominent **ears** - Posteriorly rotated **ears** Eyes -

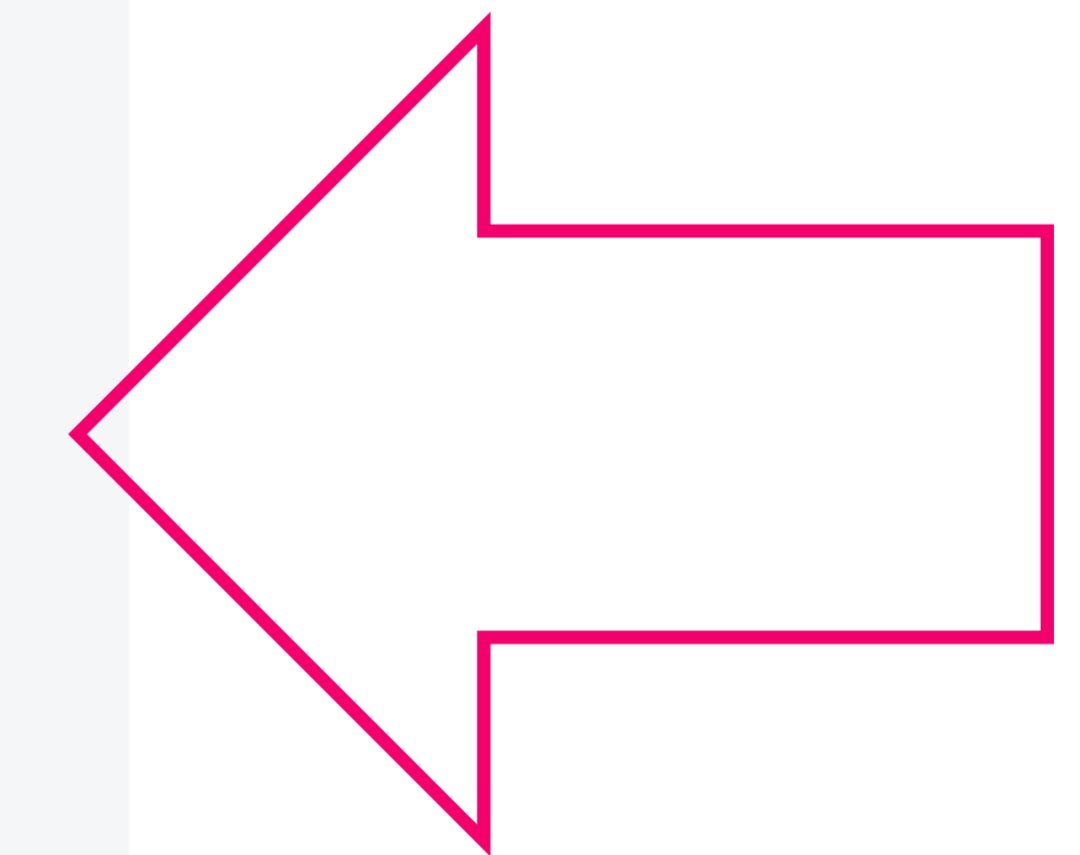
### Branchial Arch Syndrome, X-Linked [Oimim](#)

All 3 showed microcephaly, downslanting palpebral fissures, highly arched palate, apparently **low-set**, protruding **ears**, bilateral hearing loss, slightly webbed neck, somewhat **short stature**, and learning disability. **Cryptorchidism** was present in 2 and subvalvular pulmonic stenosis and body asymmetry in 1. ... Puri and Phadke (2002) reported a boy with mild mandibulofacial dysostosis, growth retardation with microcephaly, bilateral hearing loss, thoracic deformity with a cardiac valvular lesion, and bilateral **cryptorchidism**. ... GU - **Cryptorchidism** Neuro - Learning disability Neck - Slightly webbed neck Inheritance - X-linked

[Related articles](#)

### Widow's Peak Syndrome [Oimim](#)

Patients often reported the 'knee giving way' or 'kneecap **problems**.' Inability to touch the ipsilateral shoulder with the hand was a frequent finding. ... The proband had **low-set** and posteriorly rotated **ears**. LaDine et al. (2001) suggested that the patient they described had the same condition as that reported by Kapur et al. (1989). Postnatal onset of **short stature**, widow's peak, ptosis, posteriorly angulated **ears**, and limitation of forearm supination was reported in the boy and his mother. ... INHERITANCE - X-linked dominant GROWTH Height - Relative **short stature** (compared to unaffected males in family) - **Short stature**,





# AI tools helping you out in the future?

## How it works



The MendelScan algorithm captures disease features from electronic health records across a patient population.



Patients are matched to published diagnostic criteria for 100s of rare diseases (and counting).



Mendelian's Clinical Team and Disease Specialists perform an extended medical history review.



Healthcare providers receive a MendelScan report describing the suspected disease, why it's suspected for that patient and the diagnostic pathway.



Healthcare providers decide the best way to help each patient by combining their clinical expertise with the novel insights from MendelScan

We've encoded the diagnostic criteria for more than 100 diseases



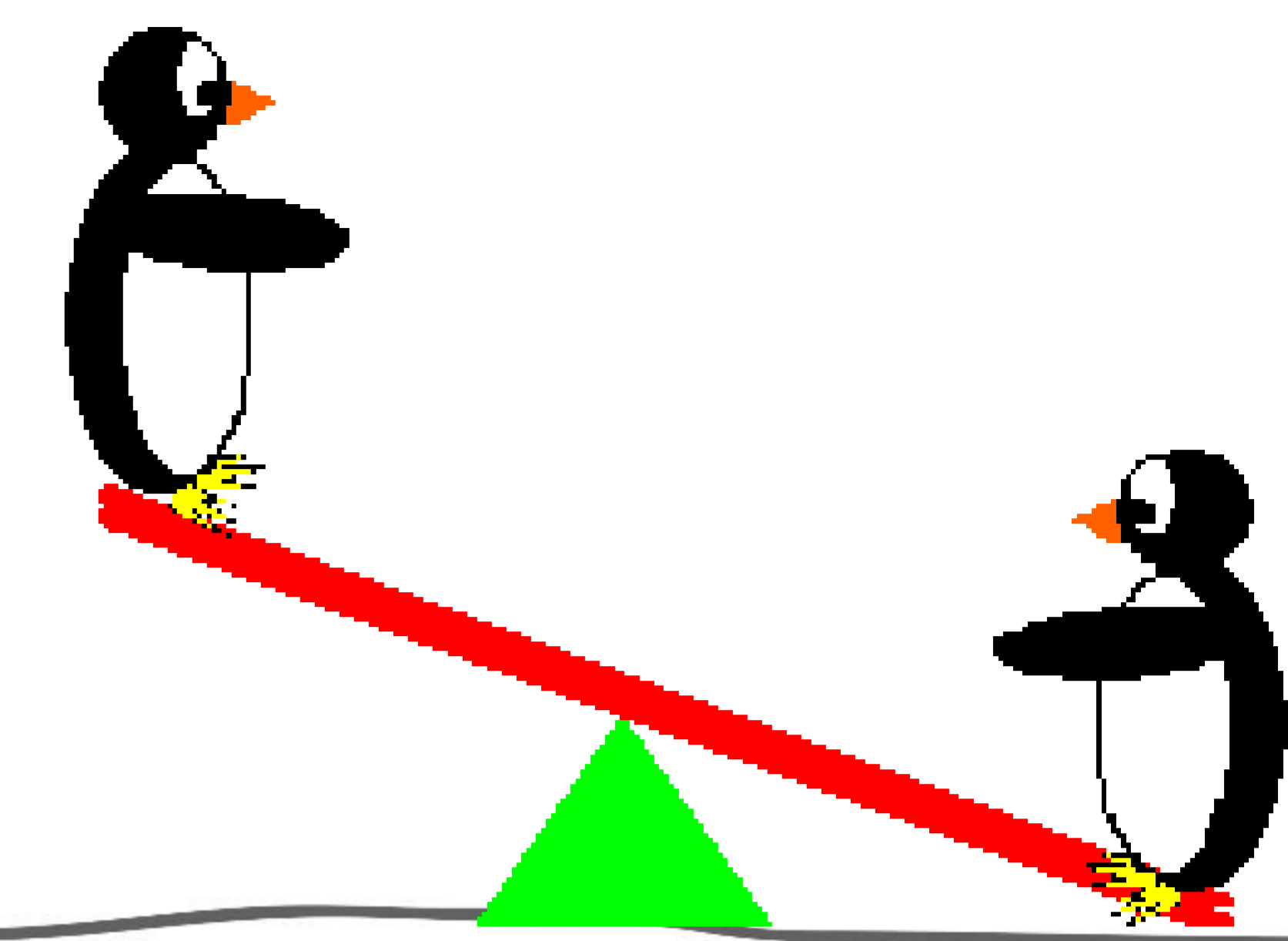
# 3. Clinical Genetics 101



- Which test
- When
- How
- **HELP!!!!!!**



## Considering.... to test or not to test



### Genetic testing can be helpful for:

- **Treatment decisions** – a genetic diagnosis may help the paediatrician or subspecialist select appropriate medication, diet or surgery
- **Clinical trial entry** – certain genetic conditions (will) have access to clinical trials
- **Limit further unnecessary diagnostic testing** – such as neuroimaging or muscle biopsies
- **Accurate genetic counselling** – about the chance of recurrence and options for testing before or around a future pregnancy
- **Patient and family support** – provide an explanation for the child's condition and help connect with other families with the same diagnosis



# Chromosomal microarray 101

## CHROMOSOMAL MICROARRAY RESOURCES

- This test screens for additional or missing sections of chromosomal material
  - It is NOT a screen for all possible genetic conditions
  - There are four possible test outcomes:
    - it may provide a **definitive explanation** for the child's epilepsy
    - it may be **non-informative**
    - it may detect a variant in a gene where we are **not sure** if it causes the child's condition
    - it may include an **incidental finding** (that is a genetic variant which causes a condition other than the one we ordered the test for)
- Centre for Genetics Education
  - CMA [Testing guide](#) for patient and families
  - CMA [Factsheets](#) for patients and families
  - CMA Review: [Chromosome microarray in Australia: A guide for paediatricians](#) (Palmer E, Peters GB, Mowat D; Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, 48 (2012) E59–E67).
  - CMA Review: [Chromosome microarray analysis: A soothing guide](#) (Ronan A; Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, 4 (2018) 599–601).



# The most critical information

## What are the possible results of a genomic test?



*One or more gene variants are found to explain the condition for which the test was done.*



*No gene variants are found to explain the condition for which the test was done.*



*A variant is found in genes associated with the condition but the significance is not known (variants of unknown significance).*



*A gene variant is found for an unrelated condition (incidental finding).*



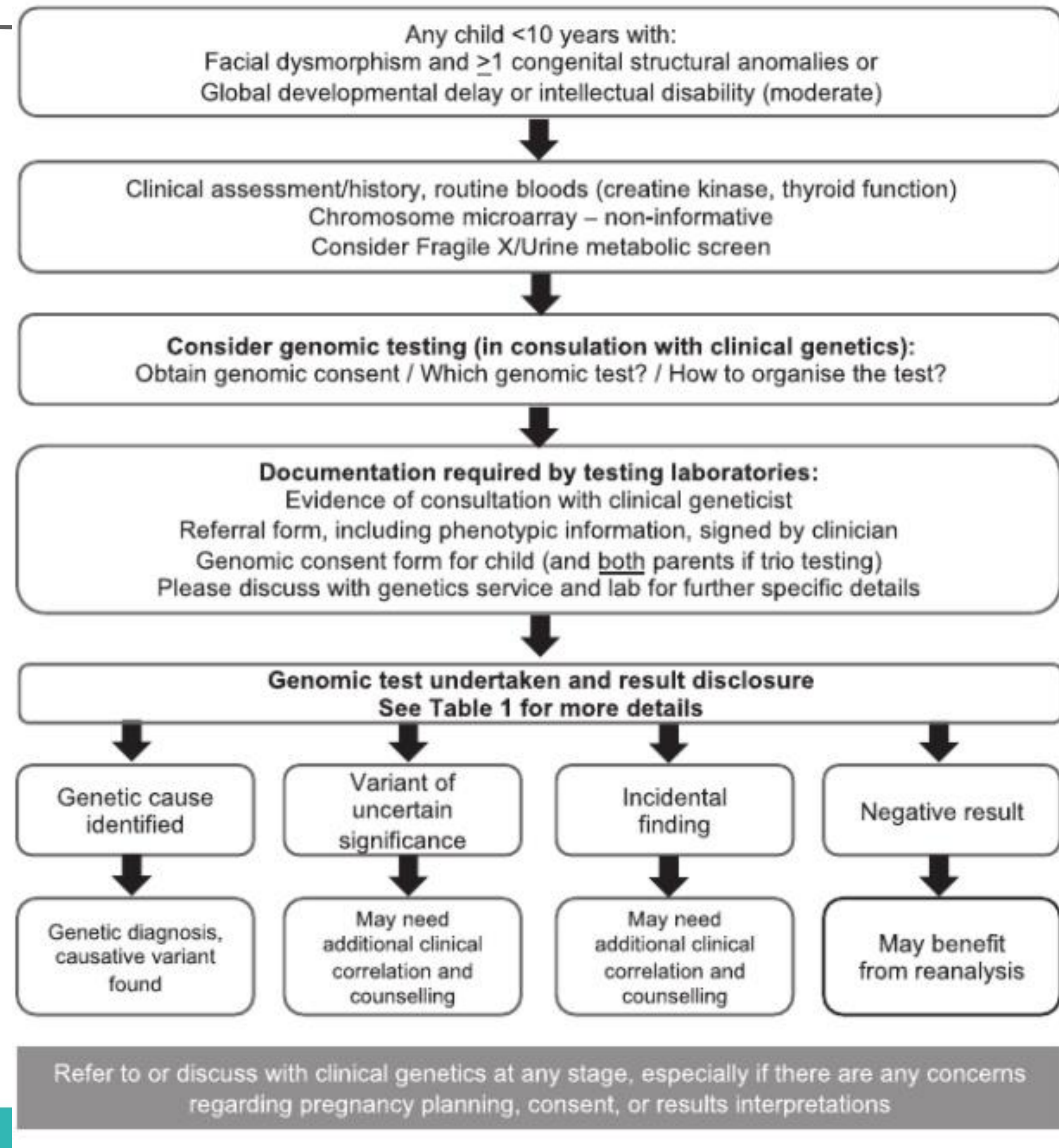
# Exome sequencing 101

VIEWPOINT

## Paediatric genomic testing: Navigating medicare rebatable genomic testing

Rani Sachdev,<sup>1,2</sup> Mike Field,<sup>3,4</sup> Gareth S Baynam,<sup>5</sup> John Beilby,<sup>6</sup> Maria Berarducci,<sup>7</sup> Yemima Berman,<sup>8,9</sup> Tiffany Boughtwood,<sup>10,11</sup> Marie B Cusack,<sup>12</sup> Vanessa Fitzgerald,<sup>13</sup> Jeffery Fletcher,<sup>14</sup> Mary-Louise Freckmann,<sup>8</sup> Natalie Grainger,<sup>12</sup> Edwin Kirk,<sup>1,2,15</sup> Ben Lundie,<sup>16</sup> Sebastian Lunke,<sup>17,18</sup> Lesley McGregor,<sup>19</sup> David Mowat,<sup>1,2</sup> Gayathri Parasivam,<sup>12</sup> Vanessa Tyrell,<sup>20</sup> Mathew Wallis,<sup>21,22</sup> Susan M White,<sup>17,23</sup> and Alan SL Ma<sup>24,25</sup>

- Medicare funding for exome or genome sequencing **commenced 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020.**
- Currently, Medicare funding is limited to 2 circumstances
- It is recommended that the local clinical genetics team be contacted in order to discuss preferred local practice regarding genetics consultation.



# Pre-test counselling

## Pre-test counselling:

- Genetic testing options are complex **and informed consent is mandatory.**
- It is preferable that counselling is provided by a medical specialist or genetic counsellor.
- Diagnostic laboratories typically require a signed consent form to proceed with testing.
- An **information booklet** should be provided to all families and these important points covered:



## Potential outcomes of testing (look familiar?)

The test may:

- it may provide a **definitive explanation** for the child's epilepsy
- it may be **non-informative**
- it may detect a variant in a gene where we are **not sure** if it causes the child's condition
- it may include an **incidental finding** (that is a genetic variant which causes a condition other than the one we ordered the test for)
- **Other:**
- Other issues to be covered in a formal consent process include implications for insurance, sharing results with family members and data and sample sharing.



- NSW [genomic consent](#) document website (on ACI Clinical Genetics Network website)
- NSW [genomic supporting](#) document
- National genomic consent document [website](#)
- National genomic consent [supporting document](#)
- [Video](#) from the Centre for Genetics Education - involves a clinician talking through genomic testing and possible outcomes with an adult patient.
- Article [JPCH VIEWPOINT Paediatric genomic testing: Navigating medicare rebatable genomic testing.](#) Sachdev et al., 2021



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- Policies and Clinical Guidelines
- Learning Opportunities for Health Professionals
- Newborn Screening
- Pharmacogenomics
- About MTHFR – Information for GPs
- Genomic Testing**
  - Genomic Testing for Childhood Syndromes and Intellectual Disability
  - Catalogue for Online Education and Training for Health Professionals
  - Genomic Testing Consent Resources

You are here: Home > Health Professionals > Genomic Testing > Genomic Testing for Childhood Syndromes and Intellectual Disability

## Genomic Testing for Childhood Syndromes and Intellectual Disability

**Education for Paediatricians**

**Educational Videos**

The aim of the 4 short videos is to provide a guide for paediatricians when ordering genomic testing for undiagnosed childhood syndromes, including intellectual disability. Viewed in sequence, topics are listed below.

**Video 1: Introduction and Overview 5:31**

**Paediatric Genomics Update: 2020 Medicare funded genomic testing in paediatrics**

Introduction  
 Dr Alan Ma & Dr Rani Sachdev,  
 Sydney Children's Hospital Network





# 4. How to support a family and child after a rare genetic diagnosis?

Prepare  
Listen  
Signpost  
Collaborate



# Advice from rare disease groups



Think ahead ....Consider 'calling a friend' before a results appointment..

Have your 'go to' quality resources at your fingertips..

Patients and families generally *want to know* as much as possible and can go down confronting and confusing rabbit holes without guidance

## Be Honest

You may not have all the answers, and whilst that is deeply frustrating for healthcare professionals be open and let your patients know when you don't know.

## Be Open

Patients and caregivers affected by rare disease often become "Patient Experts" be open to their research and findings. Together you are more effective.

## Check In

The early days are a whirlwind and once the dust begins to settle patients will start to have more questions, they will remember things they forgot to ask and they may need more clarification on the things they were told. Scheduling a follow up call in a few days can be a real life line to patients and caregivers during this frightening and confusing time.

## Keep your Patients Informed

Silence can be alarming, giving patients regular updates, even to say you are still waiting can go a long way to alleviating anxiety and a sense of being alone felt by most rare disease patients and caregivers.




[Learn.m4rD.org](http://Learn.m4rD.org)

# Signposting – knowing where to reach out for help




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Resize text: -A A +A

You are here: Home > Health Professionals > Genomic Testing Consent Resources > The most common genetic diagnoses identified by genomic sequencing

**The most common genetic diagnoses identified by genomic sequencing**

Abbreviations  
**NORD: National Organization for Rare Disorders**  
**GARD: Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Centre**

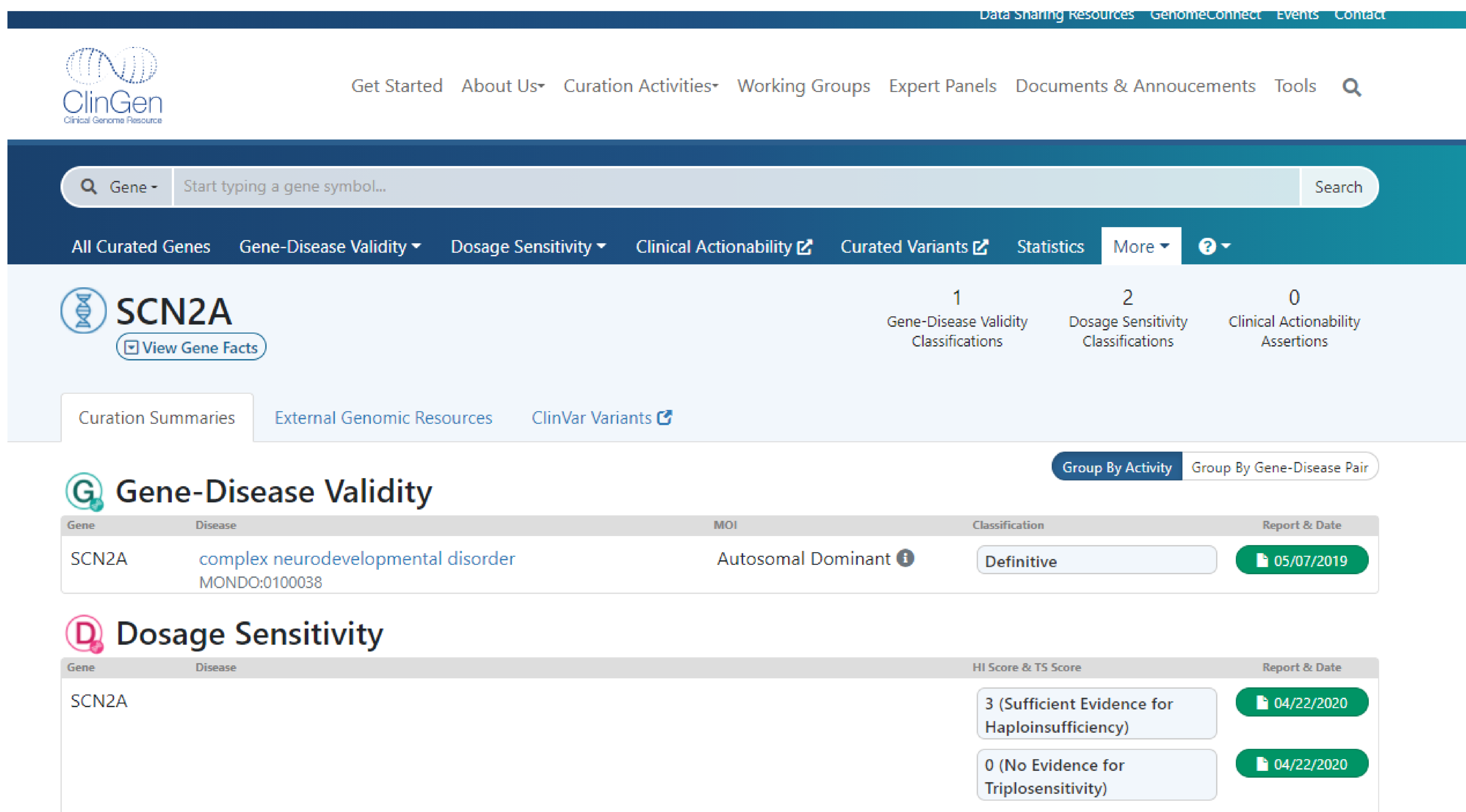
ALPHABETICAL LISTING

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

Gene	Associated condition(s)	General resources	Detailed information
ACTB	Baraitser-Winter syndrome	Unique	GeneReviews
ADNP	ADNP-related multiple congenital anomalies-intellectual disability-autism spectrum disorder	Unique, ADNP Foundation	GeneReviews

# NIH: ClinGen clinicalgenome.org

## Type in name of gene .....



The screenshot shows the ClinGen website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Data Sharing Resources', 'GenomeConnect', 'Events', and 'Contact'. Below this is the ClinGen logo and a search bar with the text 'Gene - Start typing a gene symbol...'. The main content area displays the search results for 'SCN2A'. It includes a 'View Gene Facts' button and three summary statistics: 1 Gene-Disease Validity Classification, 2 Dosage Sensitivity Classifications, and 0 Clinical Actionability Assertions. Below these are tabs for 'Curation Summaries', 'External Genomic Resources', and 'ClinVar Variants'. The 'Gene-Disease Validity' section shows a table with columns for Gene, Disease, MOI, Classification, and Report & Date. The 'Dosage Sensitivity' section shows a table with columns for Gene, Disease, HI Score & TS Score, and Report & Date.

Gene	Disease	MOI	Classification	Report & Date
SCN2A	complex neurodevelopmental disorder MONDO:0100038	Autosomal Dominant	Definitive	05/07/2019

Gene	Disease	HI Score & TS Score	Report & Date
SCN2A		3 (Sufficient Evidence for Haploinsufficiency)	04/22/2020
		0 (No Evidence for Triplosensitivity)	04/22/2020

How robust is the evidence that this gene is linked to human condition(s)

What types of genetic variants have been proven to be causal?




Gene - Start typing a gene symbol... Search

All Curated Genes Gene-Diseases Dosage Sensitivity Clinical Actionability Curated Variants Statistics More ?


**SCN2A** [View Gene Facts](#)

Curation Summaries External Genomic Resources ClinVar Variants

 **MedGen: Genetics Summary**


Organizes information related to human medical genetics, such as attributes of conditions with a genetic contribution.

[MedGen: Genetics Summary](#)

 **Genetic Practice Guidelines: Gene**


As guidelines are identified that relate to a disorder, gene, or variation, staff at NCBI connect them to the appropriate records. This page provides an alphabetical list of the professional practice guidelines, position statements, and recommendations that have been identified.

[Genetic Practice Guidelines: Gene](#)

 **GTR: Gene Tests**


A voluntary registry of genetic tests and laboratories, with detailed information about the tests such as what is measured and analytic and clinical validity. GTR also is a nexus for information about genetic conditions and provides context-specific links to a variety of resources, including practice guidelines, published literature, and genetic data/information. The scope of GTR includes single gene tests for Mendelian disorders, somatic/cancer tests and pharmacogenetic tests including complex arrays, panels.

[GTR: Gene Tests](#)

 **PharmGKB: Gene**


PharmGKB is a comprehensive resource that curates knowledge about the impact of genetic variation on drug response for clinicians and researchers.

[PharmGKB: Gene](#)

 **OMIM: Gene**


An Online Catalog of Human Genes and Genetic Disorders.

[OMIM: Gene](#)

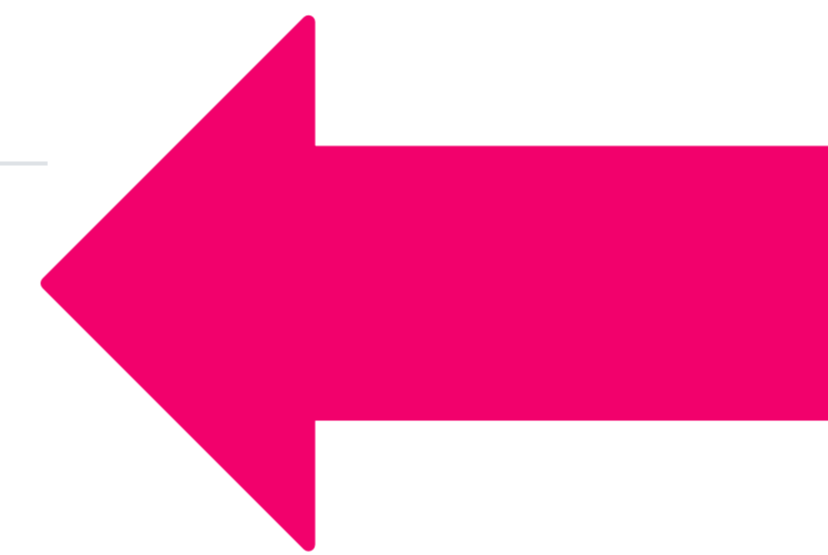
 **Gene Reviews**

An international point-of-care resource for busy clinicians, provides clinically relevant and medically actionable information for inherited conditions in a standardized journal-style format, covering diagnosis, management, and genetic counseling for patients and their families.

[Gene Reviews](#)

 **ClinVar - Gene**

ClinGen and ClinVar are close partners and have established a collaborative working relationship. ClinVar is a critical resource for ClinGen. ClinVar aggregates information about genomic variation and its relationship to human health.



Any management guidelines?



Excellent summary for clinicians





GeneReviews® [Internet].

▶ [Show details](#)

[GeneReviews by Title](#)

[GeneReviews Advanced Search](#) [Help](#)

## Management

Go to:

### Evaluations Following Initial Diagnosis

To establish the extent of disease and needs in an individual diagnosed with a *GRIN2A*-related speech disorder and epilepsy, the following evaluations are recommended:

- Consultation with a speech and language pathologist
- Epilepsy consultation (if not done at the time of initial assessment)
- Sleep-deprived or sleep EEG with monitoring to capture slow-wave sleep (if not done at the time of initial assessment), as this is essential to diagnosing or excluding continuous spike-and-wave in sleep (CSWS).
- Neuropsychological assessment
- Hearing testing
- Consultation with a clinical geneticist and/or genetic counselor

### Treatment of Manifestations

**Speech/language deficits.** Individuals with significant speech/language deficits may benefit from therapy by a speech pathologist. The therapies, which are individualized to the specific speech disorder, often include linguistic approaches and augmentative and alternative communication [[Murray et al 2014](#)].

**Seizures,** if present, should be treated with antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). Many different AEDs may be effective, and no one medication has been demonstrated to be effective specifically for *GRIN2A*-related disorders.

In one individual a good response to refractory epilepsy was achieved with topiramate [[Venkateswaran et al 2014](#)].

## *GRIN2A*-Related Speech Disorders and Epilepsy

Kenneth A Myers, MD, PhD, FRCPC and Ingrid E Scheffer, FAA, FAHMS, FRACP, MBBS

▶ [Author Information](#)

Initial Posting: September 29, 2016.

*Estimated reading time: 21 minutes*

## Summary

**Clinical characteristics.** *GRIN2A*-related speech disorders and epilepsy are characterized by affected individuals and a range of epilepsy syndromes present in about 90%. Seizures include dysarthria and speech dyspraxia, and both receptive and expressive language affected individuals may display subtly impaired intelligibility of conversational speech. Seizure onset usually between ages three and six years, focal epilepsy with language regression, and electroencephalogram (EEG) showing continuous spike-and-wave during sleep. Seizure types include seizures associated with aura or focal motor seizures (often evolving to generalized tonic-clonic), and atypical absence seizures. Epilepsy syndromes can include: Landau-Kleffner syndrome (LKS), epileptic encephalopathy with continuous spike-and-wave during sleep

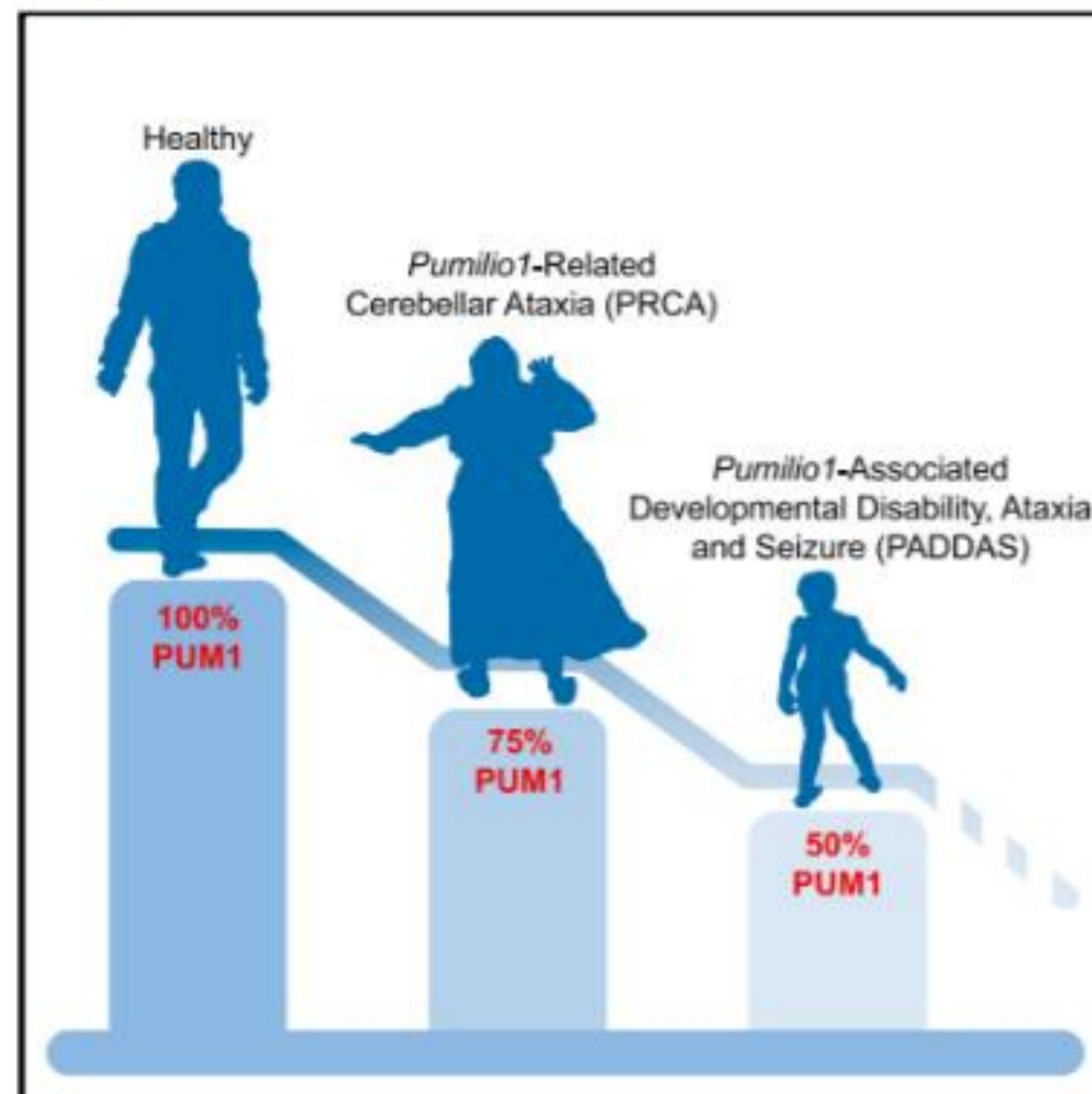


# Very new genetic conditions Human Disease Gene Webseries

Cell

## A Mild *PUM1* Mutation Is Associated with Adult-Onset Ataxia, whereas Haploinsufficiency Causes Developmental Delay and Seizures

Graphical Abstract



### Authors

Vincenzo A. Gennarino,  
Elizabeth E. Palmer,  
Laura M. McDonnell, ..., Kym M. Boycott,  
J. Lloyd Holder, Jr., Huda Y. Zoghbi

### Correspondence

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### In Brief

**Different dosages of an RNA-binding protein result in human neurological diseases of corresponding severities.**

Article

 **HUMAN DISEASE GENES**  
WEBSITE SERIES

PUM1

Home Professionals Parents Graph and Chart Contact

To share and collect information about clinic management and research projects.

## Welcome

This website provides information on patients with mutations in the PUM1 gene, including clinical data, molecular data, and management and research options.

PUM1 plays an important role in the development and function of neurons (brain cells). When the PUM1 gene does not function properly, due to a change in its DNA sequence (known as a mutation or pathogenic variant), it can lead to a range of neuropsychiatric difficulties, depending on the severity of the mutation.

Currently two distinct PUM1-related disorders are recognised. The more severe disease is an early-onset syndrome called Pumilio1-associated developmental disability, ataxia, and seizures (PADDAS). The features of this disease can vary from one individual to the next.

A milder PUM1 mutation has been found in one family with a slowly progressive, adult-onset ataxia. This disease is called Pumilio1-related cerebellar ataxia, or PRCA.

This website was created to share and collect information about clinical and research projects on PUM1 and to gather more knowledge about patients with mutations in PUM1 with the goal of developing better treatments.

A/Professor Vincenzo Alessandro Gennarino, PhD, Department of Genetics and Development, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, USA,  
vag2138@cumc.columbia.edu

Dr (Elizabeth) Emma Palmer (Clinical Geneticist), MD, Genetics of Learning Disability Service, Hunter Genetics, Waratah, NSW 2298, Sydney, Australia,  
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# Parent led resources




SCN2A AUSTRALIA

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Welcome to SCN2A Australia  
SCN2A INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAY - 2021

Living with SCN2A

Sign Up To The Newsletter For Updates.

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SCN2A Australia 277 likes  
SCN2A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE  
MARCH 29TH - APRIL 4TH

SCN2A Australia 1 day ago  
Vital work being completed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Ingo Helbig for #SCN2A.  
It has been such a positive week for #SCN2A we are moving things forward together!  
#SCN2A #CureSCN2A #S... See More



SynGAP research

Raising funds for research into SynGAP and genetic epilepsies

Home Top Supporters Our Story Log In

Start Fundraising

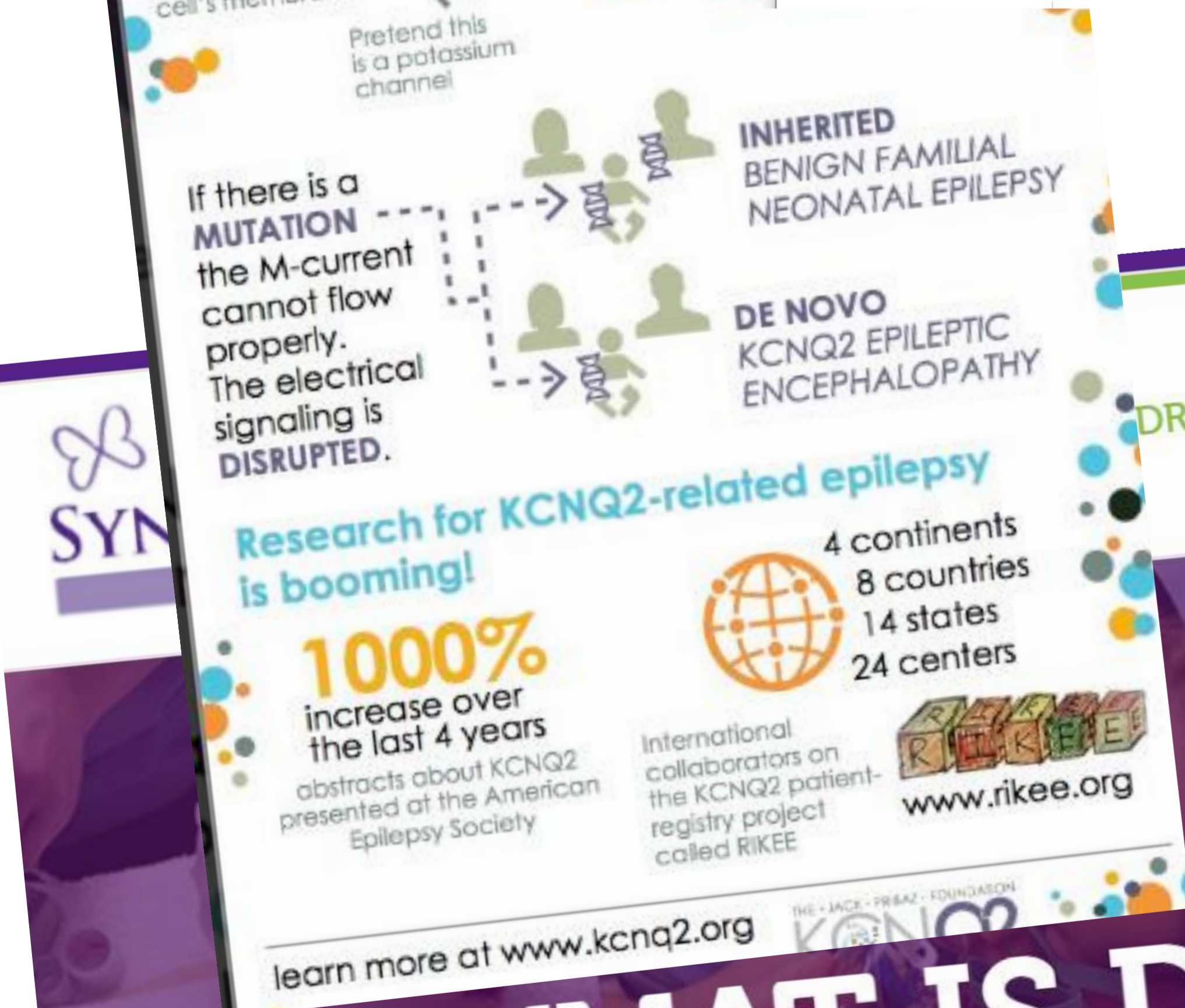
Donate Now

Login

Like the Syngap research facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Syngapresearch/>) to find out how we progress towards our goal of finding a cure for our kids.

SynGAP - Story and awareness

Families Professionals Community The Team Get involved Contact



How aware are you of KCNQ2 [potassium channel family of genes]

You have KCNQ2 Yes you!

KCNQ2 is a GEN making POTASSIUM brain cells channels permeable out of the cells M-CURRENT, cells from be

Pretend this is your brain cell's membrane

Pretend this is a potassium channel

If there is a MUTATION the M-current cannot flow properly. The electrical signaling is DISRUPTED.

INHERITED BENIGN FAMILIAL NEONATAL EPILEPSY

DE NOVO KCNQ2 EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

Research for KCNQ2-related epilepsy is booming!

1000% increase over the last 4 years

4 continents  
8 countries  
14 states  
24 centers

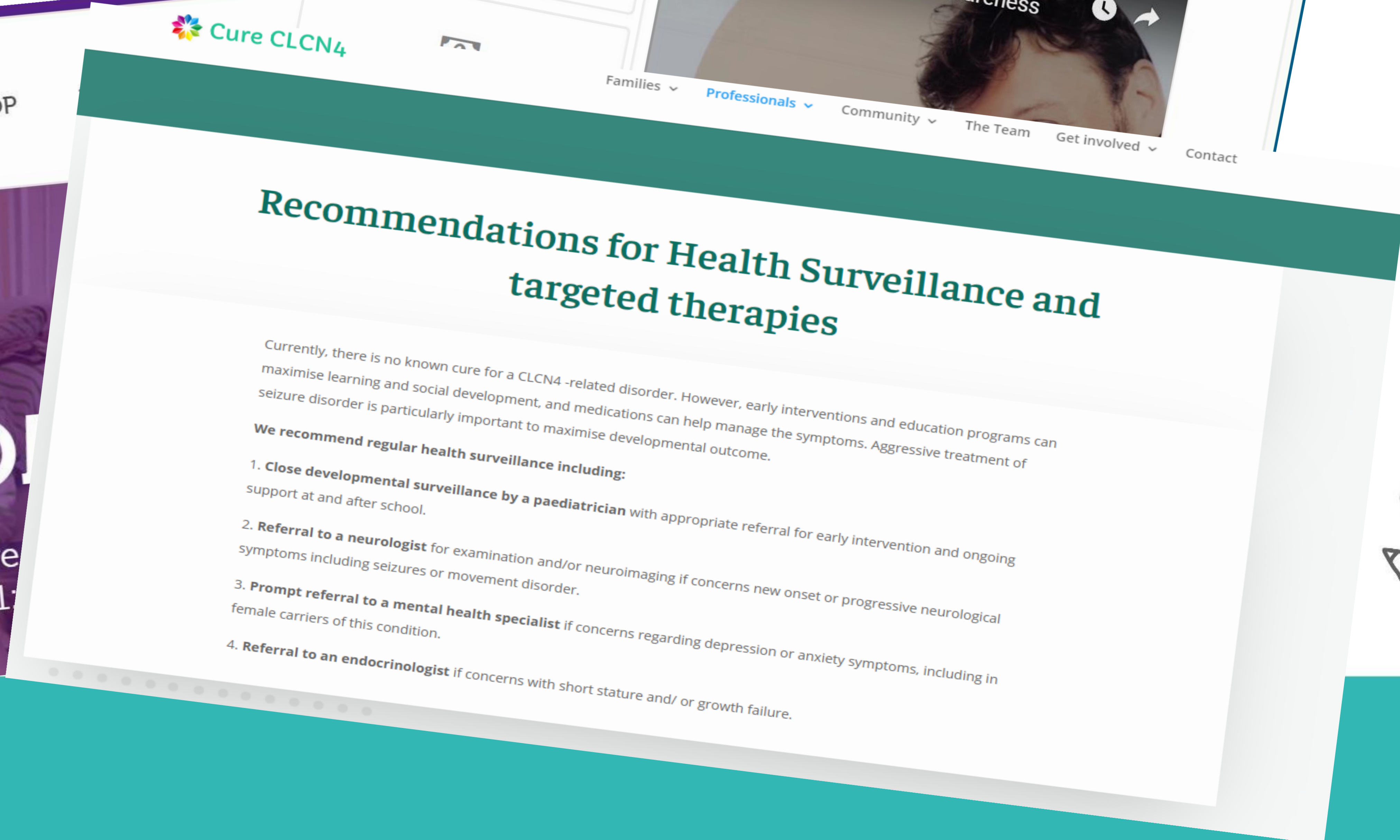
International collaborators on the KCNQ2 patient-registry project called RIKEE

www.rikee.org

learn more at [www.kcnq2.org](http://www.kcnq2.org)

## WHAT IS DRAVET SYNDROME

Dravet syndrome, also known as Severe Myoclonic Epilepsy of Infancy (SMEI), is a rare form of intractable epilepsy that begins in infancy, with an estimated incidence rate of 1:



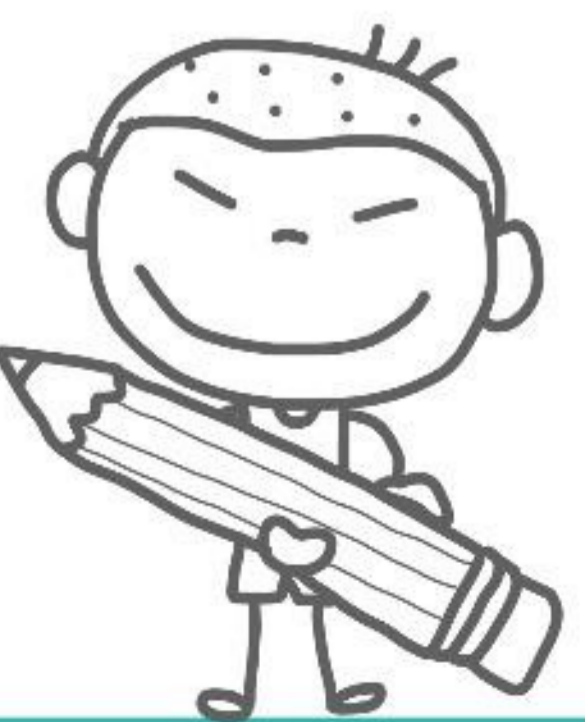
Cure CLN4

### Recommendations for Health Surveillance and targeted therapies

Currently, there is no known cure for a CLN4-related disorder. However, early interventions and education programs can maximise learning and social development, and medications can help manage the symptoms. Aggressive treatment of seizure disorder is particularly important to maximise developmental outcome.

We recommend regular health surveillance including:

1. Close developmental surveillance by a paediatrician with appropriate referral for early intervention and ongoing support at and after school.
2. Referral to a neurologist for examination and/or neuroimaging if concerns new onset or progressive neurological symptoms including seizures or movement disorder.
3. Prompt referral to a mental health specialist if concerns regarding depression or anxiety symptoms, including in female carriers of this condition.
4. Referral to an endocrinologist if concerns with short stature and/ or growth failure.





# Due diligence

Q: Who is on their clinical / scientific advisory board?

Q: Are they a member of a country's rare disease peak body ?

Click each logo to visit their site.



Scientific Advisors



EMMA PALMER

Dr Palmer (PhD, MBBS, FRACP, BA (Hons 1) Oxon), is a clinician scientist at Sydney Children's Hospital Network & University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. She has extensive experience at the interface of clinical and research genetics leading multidisciplinary teams and establishing international collaborations to discover new genetic conditions. She has led 5 international projects delineating novel genetic conditions (ZSWIM6, ATN1, ARV1, KCNT2, RLIM duplication). She works closely with rare genetic disease advocacy and consumer reference groups and aims to translate genomic discoveries to improved education and management for patients and families. She was the first author on a publication describing the impact of CLCN4 gene changes in 52 individuals, moderates the CLCN4 gene pages on the Human Disease Gene Webseries along with Professor Vera Kalscheuer and is leading the clinical aspects of an international study to better understand the genetic and clinical spectrum of CLCN4 related condition.



COVID-19: Click for more Information & Resources

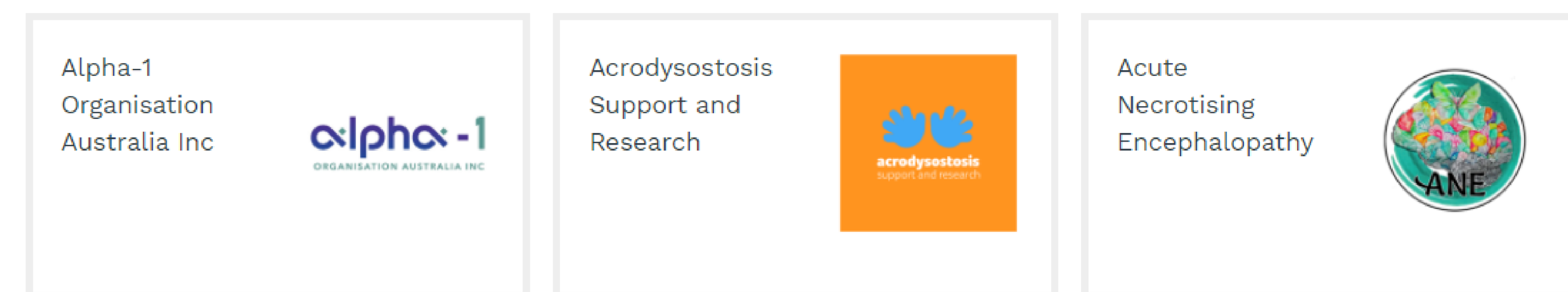


## Rare Voices Australia Partner Organisations

Rare Voices Australia (RVA) celebrates and thanks our partner organisations for their ongoing support. If your organisation would like to become an RVA partner, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

Quick Search: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

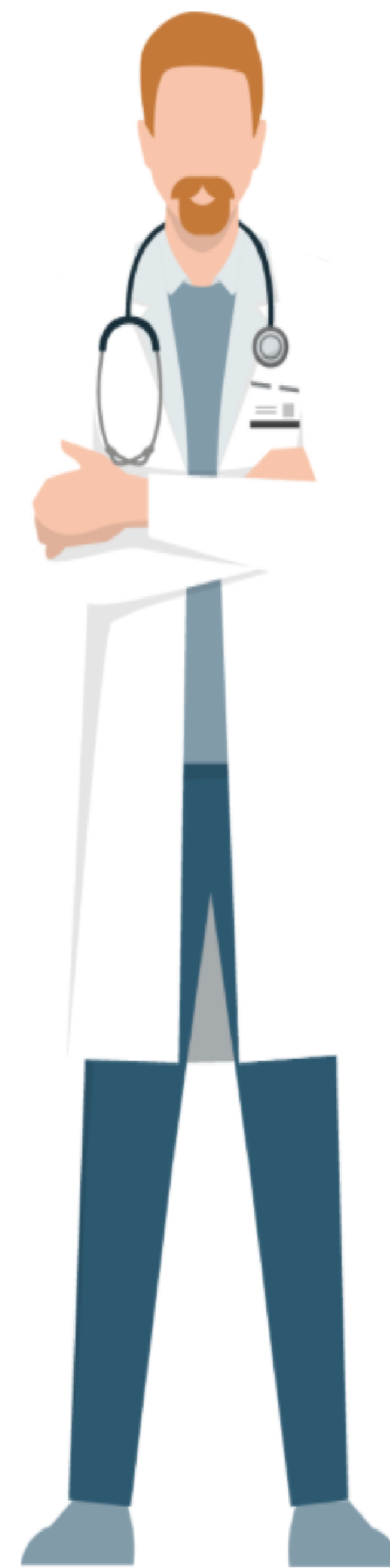
### A



# Collaborate

Try to work to **coordinate** appointments and locations as much as you can.

**Advocate** for multi-disciplinary meetings so all relevant health care professionals can **discuss and plan** treatment in a coordinated effort and avoid the need for constant re-telling.



[Learn.m4rD.org](http://Learn.m4rD.org)



The Circle of Coordination

Integrated Care at SCHN



# Support for the WHOLE family

Make A Donation



Promoting better support for siblings of children and adults with disability

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## Welcome to Siblings Australia

Siblings Australia is committed to improving the support available for siblings of children and adults with chronic conditions including disability, chronic illness and mental health issues.

This website will allow you to access information about sibling support – services, resources, research and policy – whether you are a sibling, parent, worker or researcher. If you would like specific information about our workshops or resources please **contact us**. Or be in touch if you cannot find what you are looking for here. We hope you subscribe to our email updates or 'like' our **Facebook page** to keep up to date with what is happening.

And check out a short video about our **Sibworks** program!

http://siblingsaustralia.org.au/



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## Welcome to Reframing Disability

We are by and for families raising children with disability. We offer a way for families to see a future of possibility for their children.

<https://www.reframingdisability.com.au/>

Powering up the voices of the youth rare disease community

**NEWS & EVENTS**

**TOP TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL (WHEN IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT)**

TOP TIPS for back to school

22 Write a comment 1

**A RARE KIDS GUIDE TO SHIELDING AT HOME**

Top Tips for RARE Shielding

24 Write a comment 2

Walking in the footsteps of others

21 Write a comment 2

**R VOICES**

The good days and the bad

Somebody rare

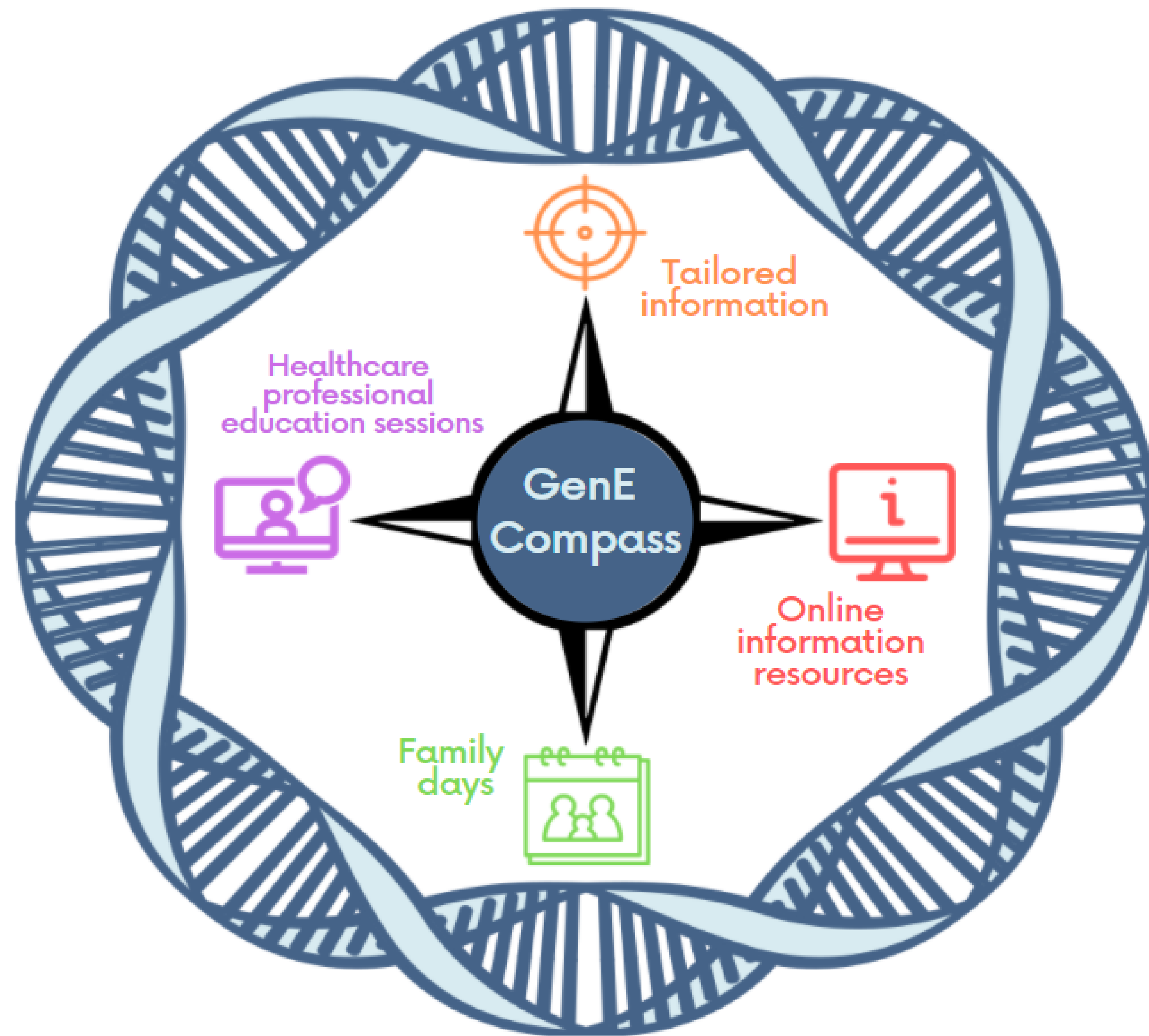
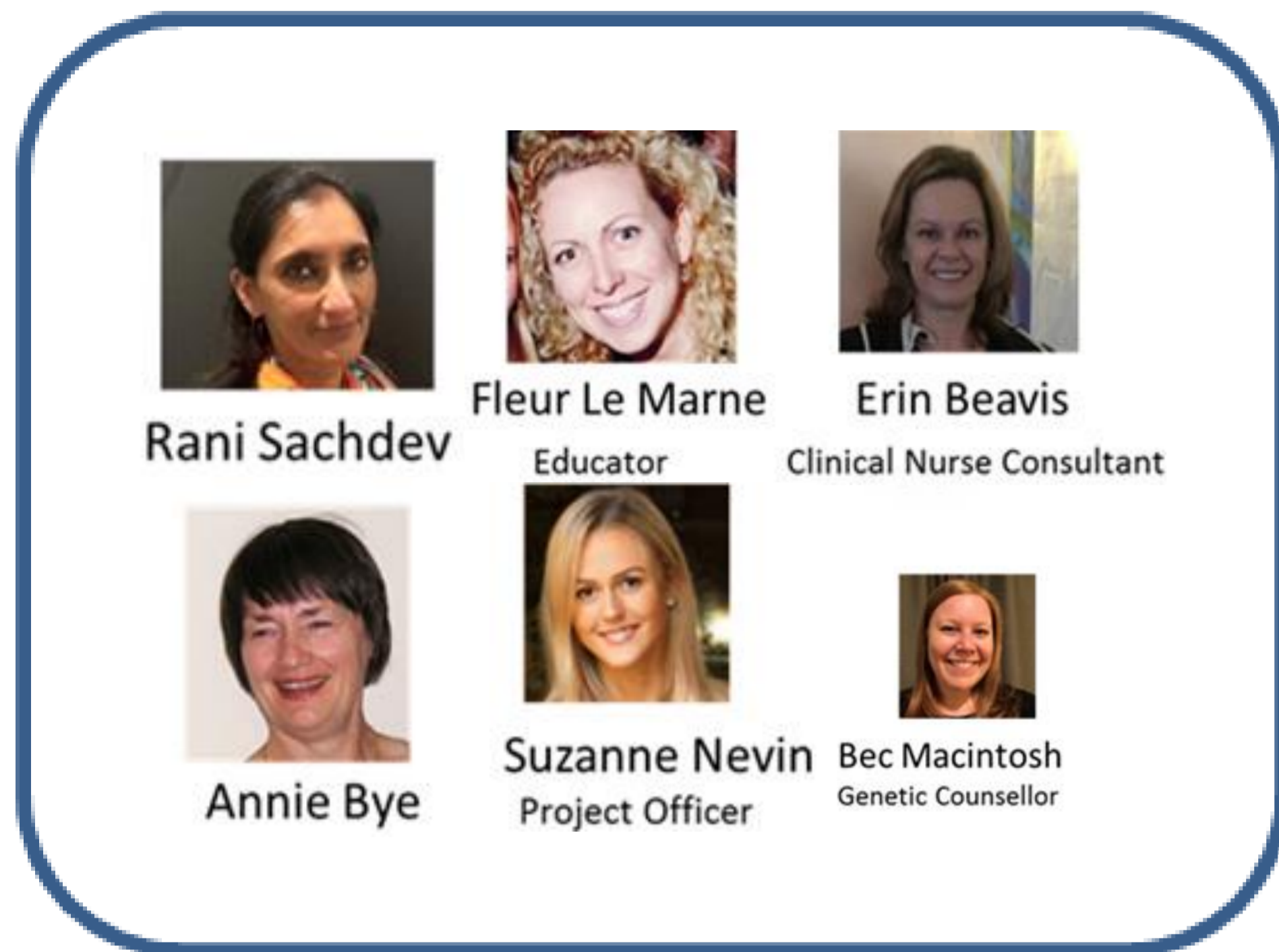
Oswain's adventures living with

Back to Top



<https://www.rarerevolutionmagazine.com/rareyouthproject.html>

# Genetic Epilepsy Pilot



# 5. How to support a child and family who remains on the diagnostic odyssey?



# Case study



## REPORT

### *De Novo* Variants Disrupting the HX Repeat Motif of ATN1 Cause a Recognizable Non-Progressive Neurocognitive Syndrome

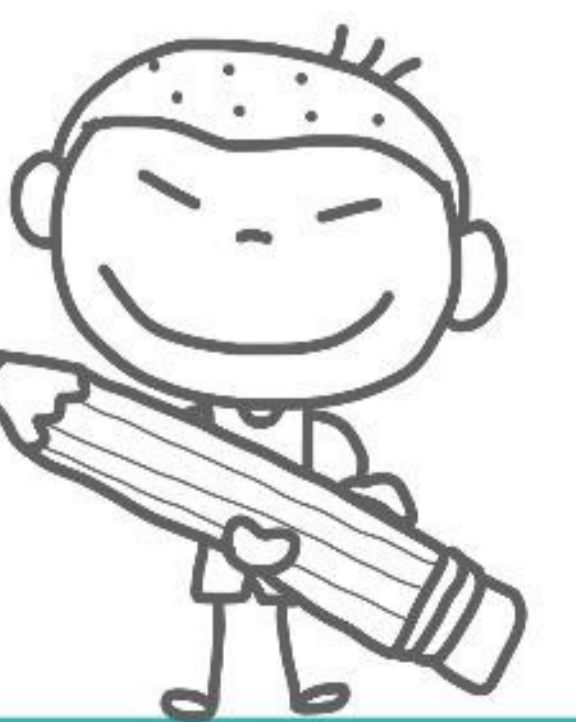
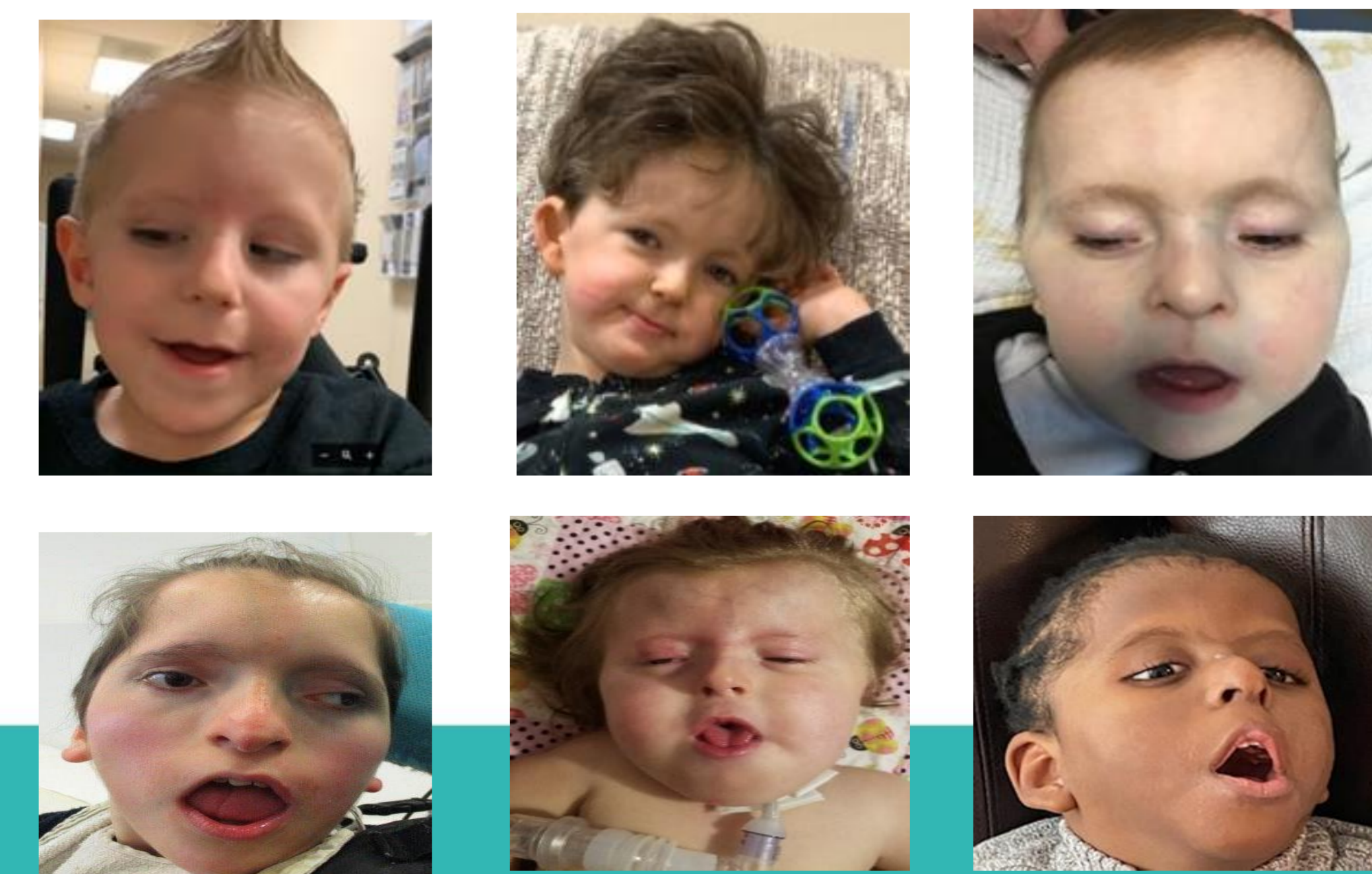
Elizabeth E. Palmer,<sup>1,2,3,4,25</sup> Seungbeom Hong,<sup>5,25</sup> Fatema Al Zahrani,<sup>6</sup> Mais O. Hashem,<sup>6</sup> Fajr A. Aleisa,<sup>5</sup> Heba M. Jalal Ahmed,<sup>5</sup> Tejaswi Kandula,<sup>1,2</sup> Rebecca Macintosh,<sup>1</sup> Andre E. Minoche,<sup>3</sup> Clare Puttick,<sup>3</sup> Velimir Gayevskiy,<sup>3</sup> Alexander P. Drew,<sup>3</sup> Mark J. Cowley,<sup>3,7</sup> Marcel Dinger,<sup>3,7</sup> Jill A. Rosenfeld,<sup>8</sup> Rui Xiao,<sup>8,9</sup> Megan T. Cho,<sup>10</sup> Suliat F. Yakubu,<sup>5</sup> Lindsay B. Henderson,<sup>10</sup> Maria J. Guillen Sacoto,<sup>10</sup> Amber Begtrup,<sup>10</sup> Muddathir Hamad,<sup>11</sup> Marwan Shinawi,<sup>12</sup> Marisa V. Andrews,<sup>12</sup> Marilyn C. Jones,<sup>13</sup> Kristin Lindstrom,<sup>14</sup> Ruth E. Bristol,<sup>15</sup> Saima Kayani,<sup>16</sup> Molly Snyder,<sup>17</sup> María Mercedes Villanueva,<sup>18</sup> Angeles Schteinschnaider,<sup>18</sup> Laurence Faivre,<sup>19,20</sup> Christel Thauvin,<sup>19</sup> Antonio Vitobello,<sup>19</sup> Tony Roscioli,<sup>1,21,22</sup> Edwin P. Kirk,<sup>1,2,21</sup> Ann Bye,<sup>1,2</sup> Jasmeen Merzaban,<sup>23</sup> Lukasz Jaremko,<sup>5</sup> Mariusz Jaremko,<sup>23</sup> Rani K. Sachdev,<sup>1,2</sup> Fowzan S. Alkuraya,<sup>6,24,25,\*</sup> and Stefan T. Arold<sup>5,25,\*</sup>

A



### ATN1 related disorder (CHEDDA) support group

Private group · 13 members



# Genetic testing may need to be revisited....

The data from a genomic test can be stored.

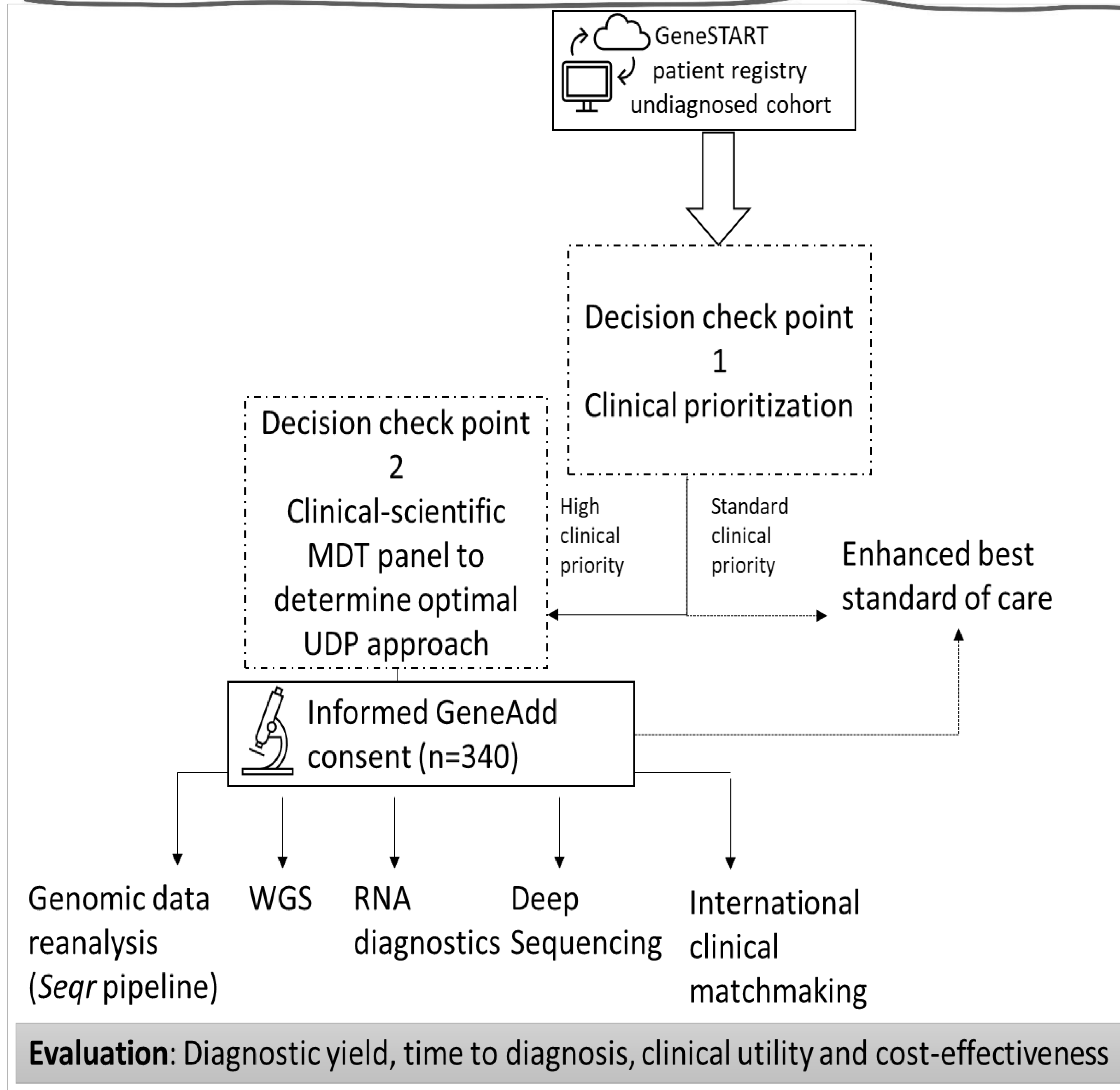
It can be re-examined again over time, either to answer the original question in light of new information, or to answer new questions.

We are still learning about what genes do and how they work.

We expect that more patients will receive a diagnosis in the future, as the technology and our ability to interpret genomic information improve.



# Undiagnosed disease programs



Gene2Care incorporating GeneSTART and GeneAdd

- Syndromes without a Name

**Who We Are**  
*Syndromes Without A Name (SWAN)*  
Australia is a community of unique children and their families.

**Connect**  
*Don't feel like you are on your own*  
Join our SWAN community and connect with parents and carers just like you.

**SWAN Information**

**swanaus.org.au**  
PO Box 390, Fairfield, VIC 3078  
facebook.com/SWANAustralia  
@swanaus  
@swanaus  
linkedin.com/company/swanaustralia  
youtube.com/user/SWANAUst  
T 0404 280 441  
E info@swanaus.org.au  
ABN 60 997 297 388  
ARBN 646 034 880

This brochure initiative received grant funding from the Australian Government.

SWAN Australia

<https://swanaus.org.au/>



<https://swanaus.org.au/>



# Summary

- Every clinician can be part of a collaboration to improve the model of care for rare disease children and their families.
- Fabulous resources available through the international website Medics 4 Rare Disease <https://learn.m4rd.org/>
- [Centre for Genetics Education](#) a great first point of call.

## #Daretothinkrare

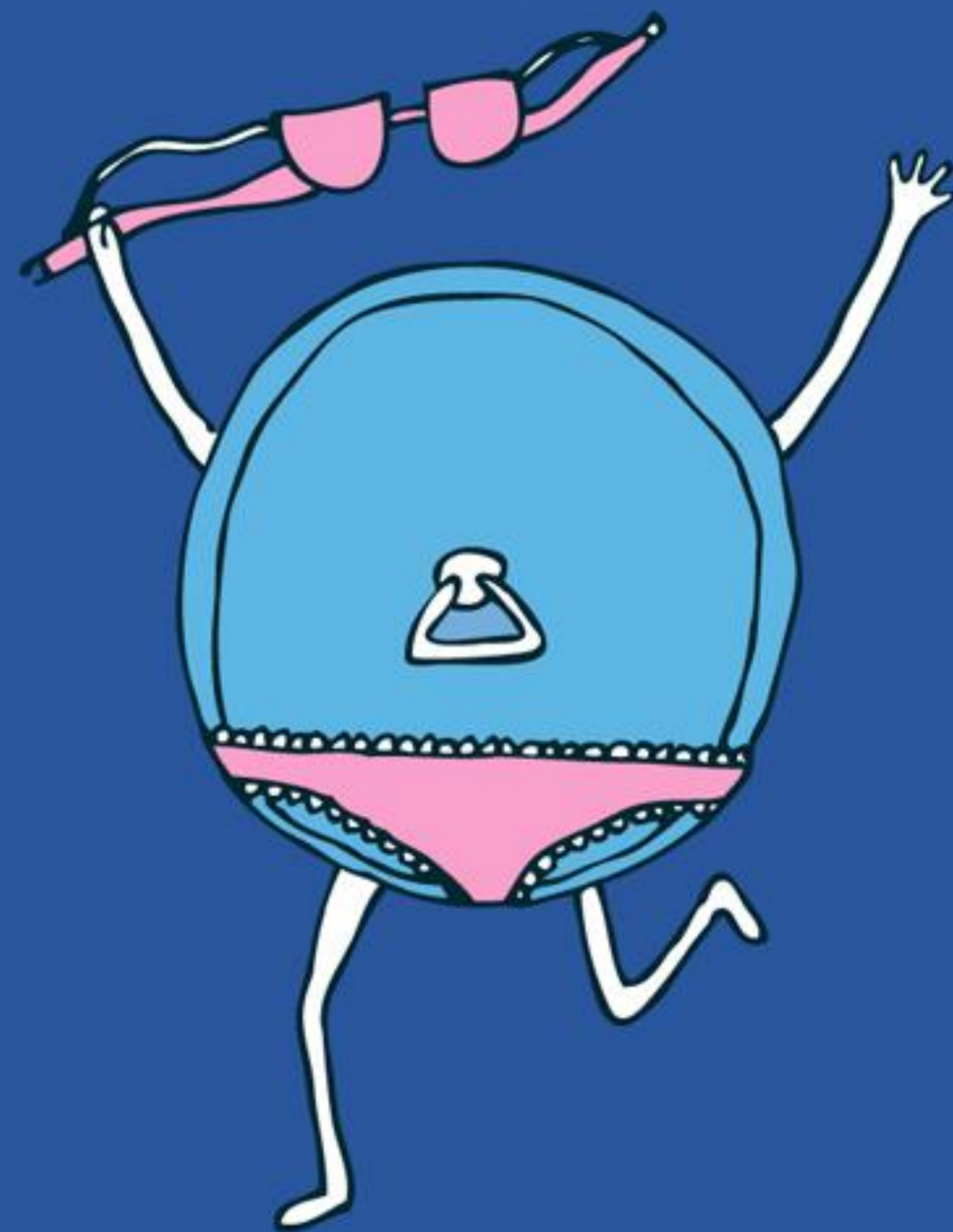
- Listen
- Think (and think, and think again)
- Support diagnosed and undiagnosed families
- Signpost resources
- Work as a team





The Sydney  
children's  
Hospitals Network

care, advocacy, research, education



A Shameless Plug.



Short Course

# Practical Medical Genomics

The UNSW Medicine and Science faculties have a rich history in building the future of the health industry. Our leading educators, researchers and clinicians have translated discoveries into breakthrough cures, public health strategies, policies and turned high achieving students into leaders of healthcare with globally recognised qualifications.



## Who should attend this course?

Clinicians and clinicians-in-training who are interested in learning about clinical genomics and precision medicine. Relevant professions include pediatricians, obstetricians, general physicians, sub-specialists, and general practitioners.

Gain knowledge and skills to integrate genomics into your daily practice

## About this course

This course will provide medical practitioners with the specialised knowledge and skills required to integrate genetics and genomics into their daily practice with confidence. This includes the ability to:

- Identify which patients will benefit from genomic testing
- Interpret genomic test result reports
- Develop individual care plans and communicate with patients and families affected by genetic conditions; and
- Identify when to consult with clinical genetics and genomics services.

## Course format

Interactive, case-based learning opportunities will be delivered by clinical geneticists and medical specialists who are actively using genomics in their clinical practice. The course will include online learning resources, self-assessment and reflection tasks and live, virtual discussion sessions.

## Delivery and assessment

**DELIVERY**  
Fully online via AGSM Virtual Learning Environment.

30 hours of learning, divided between online synchronous teaching, case-based discussions, and presentations (12 hours – split over two weekend days) and asynchronous learning (18 hours) that can be fitted around practitioners' own clinical practice.

The course is delivered in partnership with the faculties of UNSW Medicine and Health, and UNSW Science.

## ASSESSMENT

There is an optional assessment associated with this course. All participants who complete this assessment task will be issued with 3 FMECH points upon completion of the course. These points can be credited towards future UNSW postgraduate programs.

## Course details

### DATES

The course will run over a 6-week period with online course starting 18th August 2021. Live sessions are scheduled for the weekends of 28 August and 11 September.

### LOCATION

Online – AGSM Virtual Learning Environment

### COST

\$2500

### POINTS

Faculty of Medicine Executive Certificate in Health (FMECH) points: 3 per course

## Contact

Dr Elizabeth Emma Palmer  
Dr Emily Oates  
[clinicalgenetics@unsw.edu.au](mailto:clinicalgenetics@unsw.edu.au)

> More details

> Register



[Elizabeth.palmer@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Elizabeth.palmer@unsw.edu.au)