



## The Jordan C. Hubbard Foundation

*The mission of the Jordan C. Hubbard Foundation is to promote ataxia awareness, fund research for Spinocerebellar Ataxia and help offset the cost of durable medical equipment for children with movement disorders.*

June 2006

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## We're Coming to Nashville!

It's that time of year! Time to make plans for the Jordan C. Hubbard Foundation. In addition to our annual events in Dallas, Texas, we are proud to announce our inaugural event in Nashville, Tennessee.

On Saturday October 7, the Jordan C. Hubbard Foundation will host its inaugural Bowl-A-Thon (BAT) in Nashville Tennessee. We are optimistic about the success of this

event since there is a large base of supporters in Tennessee. Additional details can be found in our second page story. Come and show your support!

Continuing in our tradition, we are proud to host the Fifth Annual Jordan C. Hubbard Memorial Fun Walk and the Second Annual Jordan C. Hubbard Bowl-A-Thon in Dallas, Texas.

The fun walk remains a **free** community event that is kid friendly and family oriented. Our objective is to celebrate Jordan's life and to build awareness of Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA) through education. There will be food for all, a balloon release ceremony, clown entertainment, face painting, a bounce house and other activities for kids and teenagers.

The Nashville and Dallas BATs serve as fundraisers for the foundation. **Our goal this year to raise \$15,000.** Last year through your support we were able to donate \$10,000 to the National Ataxia Foundation to join the search for a cure! For an update on this contribution please see the following story.

## Searching for a Cure

On November 19, 2005 the Jordan C. Hubbard Foundation donated \$10,000 to the National Ataxia Foundation (NAF). The NAF is a non-profit, member supported organization established in 1957 to assist families with Ataxia ([www.ataxia.org](http://www.ataxia.org)). Our donation went to general research and was awarded to Gumei Liu, PhD of the University of Iowa. His studies are on disease regulated RNA interference for Spinal Ataxia Type 1 therapy.



**Summary:** Spinal cerebellar ataxia remains a fatal, dominant neurogenic disease. While supportive therapies exist, the development of an effective treatment is warranted. We previously showed that attacking the fundamental problem of mutant gene expression could be one approach to therapy. To accomplish this we used a method called RNA interference or RNAi. RNAi refers to a process whereby target genes are inhibited from being expressed. We showed, using a mouse model of SCA 1, that reducing disease gene expression improved the motor incoordination and improved the pathology in the cerebellum, the major site of the disease in this model. *(story continued on side 2)*



Please Help

**As a non-profit,  
501(c)(3)  
organization we  
need your financial  
support. Checks  
and credit cards  
are accepted.  
Please make  
checks to the  
Jordan C. Hubbard  
Foundation and  
mail to P.O. Box  
2482, McKinney,  
TX 75070. Credit  
card donations can  
be made via  
[www.4Jordan.org](http://www.4Jordan.org)**

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### Come Participate and Show your Support

To summarize...

Nashville, Tennessee

What: **The Inaugural Jordan C. Hubbard Bowl-A-Thon**

Where: AMF Pla Mor Lanes, 2906 Foster Creighton Dr., Nashville (615-254-5809)

When: Saturday, October 7, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Dallas, Texas

What: **The Second Annual Jordan C. Hubbard Bowl-A-Thon**

Where: AMF Richardson Lanes, 2101 N. Central Expwy., Richardson (972-231-2695)

When: Friday, September 22, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

What: **The Fifth Annual Jordan C. Hubbard Memorial Fun Walk**

Where: Russell Creek Park, 3500 McDermott Road, Plano

When: Saturday, September 23, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Here's how to participate in the BAT. In both Nashville and Dallas we are seeking a minimum of 20 teams with 5 players per team. Each team member will be asked to raise \$100, or simply, \$10 from 10 people. *(Remember that donations are tax deductible and be sure to consider family members, friends, co-workers, business clients, family physicians, etc.)* Lane and shoe rental is **free** for each team member that raises \$100. If you raise less than \$100, your charge for lane and shoe rental is \$25.00. If you would like to bowl **OR** just come out and cheer, the steps to help are simple.

1. Identify 4 other people so together you become a team of 5
2. Select a captain for the team
3. Have the team captain call Sherri Hubbard at 408-235-8961 (home) or 214-563-7453 (cell) to sign up
4. Come out and bowl or cheer on your favorite team and win prizes!

### Searching for a Cure (cont. from side 1)

In our prior work, we accomplished RNAi using a system that would have it 'on' at all times. We do not know if such a system is needed or safe for a disease that can span decades. For this reason I propose to develop a RNAi system that turns on when the cells are sick and off when the cells recover. We know the cells can recover to some extent because of other mouse work done by Dr. Harry Orr, U of Minn. How to accomplish this? I propose that this can be done using inhibitory RNA which are naturally expressed in brain cells.

While we don't know what these naturally occurring RNAi are doing, we do know that some of them are expressed at higher levels in SCA1 mice brains. We will use the elements that cause expression upon disease onset, to drive RNAi specific for mutant ataxin - 1. This system would take advantage of the cell's natural ability to turn things on and off as needed and represents a very novel approach to SCA1 therapy.

*As written in 'Generations', the official publication of the National Ataxia Foundation, Vol. 34, Num. 1, Spring 2006, pg 12.*

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