



About The FTD Treatment Study Group (FTSG)

The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) is dedicated to improving the lives of families coping with FTD and to advancing research into treatment and a cure. In 2010, in partnership with interested parties from industry and other nonprofit organizations, AFTD co-founded **The Frontotemporal Degeneration Treatment Study Group (FTSG)** to accelerate the development of effective treatments for FTD and related disorders by promoting scientific interactions and collaborations between academia and industry.

Initiatives:

Miami, Toronto, Indianapolis, 2010: A series of meetings were held to gauge the interest on the part of nonprofits, pharma, biotech and academic partners in coming together to better define and address the challenges in developing the first disease-modifying therapeutics for the FTD disorders. Toward the end of this year the FTSG was formed.

Las Vegas, March 2011: A workshop titled “FTD, the Next Therapeutic Frontier,” focused on pre-clinical aspects of FTD drug development. Sessions focused on animal models, tissue models, successful translational initiatives in other disease areas, federal resources, and the potential for developing animal and compound registries. (coverage of this meeting can be found on Alzforum: <http://www.alzforum.org/new/pdf/LouRuvoSeries.pdf>)

San Diego, November 2011: FTSG sponsored a companion meeting focused on clinical aspects of FTD drug development, which was held as a half-day symposium within the annual meeting of CTAD: Clinical Trials in Alzheimer’s Disease. Sessions covered epidemiology, clinical criteria, cognitive, functional and imaging outcome measures as well as biomarkers. A cogent case was made that FTD trials are feasible and have the potential to benefit a broader group of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s, ALS, Parkinson’s and other neuroinflammatory diseases. (coverage of this meeting can be found on Alzforum: <http://www.alzforum.org/new/pdf/FTLDSeries.pdf>)

The proceedings from the two 2011 meetings have been written up and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

In 2012 the FTSG is pursuing a number of new projects, including a workshop sponsored by NINDS that focuses on aspects of clinical trial design, creation of an FTSG website, and development of resources to vet and ensure standardization of accurate animal models.

FTSG Steering Committee:

Adam Boxer, M.D, Chair, UCSF

Jeff Cummings M.D., Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

Dave Knopman, M.D., the Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Howard Fillit, M.D., Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

Howard Feldman, M.D., University of British Columbia

Mike Gold, M.D. Allon Therapeutics

Susan Dickinson, The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration

Megan Grether, Ph.D. The Bluefield Project