

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF HEALTH

NOVEMBER 2022

A Legacy Gift with Lasting Impact



“Jim lived modestly and was single-minded in his commitment to donate to an organization advancing medical research,” said Mary Wendel. “He wanted his support to go toward research helping children and young adults avoid going through what he had to go through. I believe he was at peace [when he passed] knowing he would make a difference through his bequest.”

MARY WENDEL
JAMES WENDEL'S SISTER



James Wendel

“Strong, courageous, independent, stubborn, determined, and remarkable” are words Dr. Mary Wendel uses to describe her brother James “Jim” Wendel, who passed away in 2020 after a lifelong struggle with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, an inherited neurological disorder.

Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT), named for the three physicians who first described the condition, is a group of disorders that cause nerve damage, primarily to peripheral nerves controlling muscles in the hands, arms, legs, and feet. The damage leads to a progressive loss of function and sensation, making it difficult to walk. CMT affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States.

Jim Wendel suffered both physically and emotionally throughout his nearly 68 years. Yet he pushed himself to enjoy life to the fullest, undeterred by his disability. As a teen, he tried out for his high school soccer team, knowing well that his inability to run would prevent him from making the team but allow him to participate as the team manager instead. He learned how to ski and skate wearing leg braces. He became an accomplished musician and traveled throughout Europe playing baritone horn with youth orchestras during his young adult years. He was also a strong singer until his disease made breathing difficult.

[Read More](#)

Living with Schizophrenia, and Thriving: A Conversation with Carlos Larrauri



Dr. Joshua Gordon, Director of NIMH, and Carlos Larrauri

Psychosis and other serious mental illnesses are daunting and carry with them a major stigma. Science is still grappling with how to better understand and treat serious mental illnesses, as are the social circles and communities who support those with mental illnesses.

Carlos Larrauri is striving to overturn this stigma and advance both the science and community support structures around serious mental illnesses. Having been diagnosed with and treated for schizophrenia since college, Carlos has the unique ability to lead with lived experience

and help patients, clinicians, and families better understand, treat, and maintain recovery from psychosis and other mental illnesses.

Today, Carlos serves as a co-chair of the [Accelerating Medicines Partnership@ Schizophrenia](#) (AMP@ SCZ) program, a major public-private partnership between NIH's National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and partner organizations from industry and nonprofit sectors, managed by the FNIH. As a leader in addressing this important unmet neuropsychiatric need, and one offering a unique perspective, Carlos uses patient advocacy and storytelling to raise awareness and propel advancement in this therapeutic area.

Can you share a story that you would tell someone who doesn't know you, one that would illustrate your lived experience and drive home who you are and what your life is about?

Here's an anecdote I commonly share. In seventh grade, I wrote my first scientific paper on a medical illness. I chose schizophrenia because I had read *A Beautiful Mind*, had seen the movie, and was moved by both. [After writing the paper], I sent it to a family friend, who is a Harvard psychiatrist, Joseph Gonzalez-Heydrich, and he told me, “Carlos, this is an A+ paper.”

[Read More](#)

Making a Difference in Maternal and Child Healthcare



FNIH's Renata Hoffstetter presenting at the 3rd International Conference on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health

The FNIH and the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) at the National Institutes of Health recently announced a three-year study aimed at improving maternal and infant healthcare worldwide. The Prevention of Iron Deficiency Anemia Post-Delivery (PRIORITY) Trial will determine if a single-dose intravenous iron infusion is more effective than the current standard of care, oral iron supplementation, among postpartum women with moderate anemia

in low- and middle-income countries.

The trial will take place at the eight sites of NICHD's Global Network for Women's and Children's Research. As part of the official launch, FNIH scientific project manager Renata Hoffstetter travelled to Belagavi, India, where she participated in a centralized four-day protocol training with the scientific leaders and key representatives for all the international trial sites. She also represented the FNIH at the 3rd International Conference on Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, and encouraged researchers to involve patient advocates, local health ministries, and key policymakers at the earliest stages of the study design to increase effectiveness.

[Read More](#)

New Webinar Series on Antibody Effector Function

Major gaps in our understanding of the preclinical and clinical implications of antibody effector function hinder the development of effective therapeutic interventions. The FNIH's Tracking Resistance and Coronavirus Evolution (TRACE) initiative will convene leading experts on FcR function for an online seminar series to present the latest research. The sessions will be recorded and published for later use by the field.

[Register Here](#)

Stay Connected!



Copyright © 2022 Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, All rights reserved. You are receiving this email because you opted in for email updates on our website.

[Donate](#) | [Visit Our Website](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

Foundation for the National Institutes of Health Inc
11400 Rockville Pike, Suite 600 North Bethesda, MD 20852