



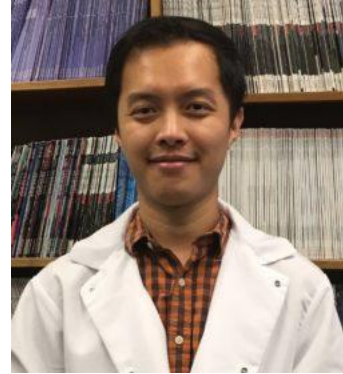
# SMS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## Fall 2018 Research News & Events

### New Research Announcement!

The SMS Research Foundation (SMSRF) is excited to announce that Dr. Wei-Hsiang Huang, a leading expert in the field of Smith-Magenis Syndrome (SMS) research, **has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$75,000 to identify a drug to increase the level of RAI1 gene to treat SMS.**

“Our Scientific Advisory Panel was very impressed with Dr. Huang’s proposal, and we feel that it complements our current gene therapy project,” said Christopher Iannuzzi, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel for the SMSRF.



Dr. Huang will apply modern molecular, cellular, genetic, and behavioral techniques to study how a gene imbalance impacts neural functions and causes SMS. A straightforward strategy to treat SMS is by increasing the RAI1 protein level back to normal.

**“We are fortunate to be supported by the SMSRF to initiate a project to identify potential drug targets for SMS,”** stated Dr. Huang. He expects this project will not only uncover multiple therapeutic entry points that warrant further pre-clinical and clinical trials, but will also provide critical insights into the basic molecular functions of the RAI1 gene.

Dr. Huang will become an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Research in Neuroscience at McGill University in the summer of 2019. The project will commence at that time. He has been studying SMS for the past five years as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the lab of Dr. Liqun Luo at Stanford University.

Dr. Huang's most recently published peer-reviewed article is entitled, "Early adolescent Rai1 reactivation reverses transcriptional and social interaction deficits in a mouse model of Smith–Magenis Syndrome". To view the full article, please go to the [research page](#) on the SMSRF website.

**DONATE TO SMS RESEARCH!**

## SMS Awareness Day

**SMS Awareness Day** is Saturday, November 17. This date represents the 11th part of the 17th chromosome where the SMS deletion is located.

This year's SMSRF hashtag campaign is **#ChooseHope4SMS**. If you have a child with SMS, we would like you to share your **hopes and dreams** for your child's future. We will post more

information on the SMSRF Facebook page in the coming weeks.



## Recent Event

### Wyatt's Walk & Run 5K Fundraiser

*Mt. Juliet, TN - August 11*

Thank you to **Jessica and Eric Rogers** for hosting their 3rd Annual Wyatt's Walk and Run 5K in honor of their 4-year-old son, Wyatt.

Their efforts raised over **\$20,000** for SMS research! Thank you to all the organizers, sponsors, and participants who helped made the event such a success!



## Upcoming Events

### Los Angeles 5K Walk Fundraiser

*Santa Monica, CA - November 11*

**Susan and Paul Diamond** will be hosting their 7th Annual 5K Walk for SMS on Sunday, **November 11th** in honor of their 13-year-old son, Jeremy. This is a fun event for the whole family with a silent auction, music, lunch, and more!

Come out to support a great cause while getting your workout for the day! To register and/or donate, go to the [Los Angeles 5K Walk for SMS event page](#).



### Comedy Fundraiser

*Pittsburgh, PA - November 17*

**Courtney and Matt Frist** will host their 3rd Annual Comedy Night at the Pittsburgh Improv on **SMS Awareness Day, November 17th**, in honor of their 7-year-old daughter, Ellie.

The event will include a raffle, an auction, a pre-show mixer, and premiere comedians. If you live in the area, please come out for an entertaining evening!

To register and/or donate, go to the [Stand Up for SMS event page](#).



### Recycle for Research

*Wilton, CT - Ongoing*

**Ben and Cole Iannuzzi**, in support of their sister

Sydney, are continuing their Recycle for Research fundraiser in their town of Wilton, Connecticut, to raise money for the SMSRF. If you live in the area, please consider supporting their cause by dropping off your empty water bottles so they can recycle them for SMS research.

For pick up or drop off information, contact Ben at [ben@smsresearchfoundation.org](mailto:ben@smsresearchfoundation.org). You can follow them on Facebook at [Recycle for Research](#) or on the SMSRF [website](#).



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**DONATE TO SMS RESEARCH**

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*The mission of the SMS Research Foundation is to support research to improve the knowledge and understanding of SMS so that viable therapeutic options can be developed in order to improve the quality of life of those living with Smith-Magenis Syndrome.*

The SMS Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in June 2010.  
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