



September 3, 2014

Dear FSH Society members,

aTyr is a small biotech company in San Diego (<http://www.atyrpharma.com/>) developing novel drugs to treat rare diseases for which no therapies exist. We are currently developing a drug for muscular dystrophies and are particularly focused on developing this drug for your disease, FSHD. To achieve this goal in FSHD, aTyr is working with physicians, scientists, healthy individuals and patients around the world.

At the present time we are working on perfecting key tests that require freshly collected blood from FSHD patients. Tests such as these could be instrumental in understanding if our drug is working when we test it in clinical trials.

We have made good progress in our efforts to develop these tests, but need to do more research to optimize test performance and standardize processes. Thus, we need more help from patients with FSHD, especially first from those who could provide blood samples locally in Southern California.

We are fortunate to be working with the FSH Society to move this research forward as quickly as possible. June Kinoshita, the executive director and Amy Bekier, FSH Society board member and local Southern California volunteer leader of FSH Society, have kindly agreed to alert FSHD patients of aTyr's need for patients to help in this laboratory research.

aTyr has also hired a company to make this process easier for patients to be donors, and for aTyr to receive the samples. Fortunately, especially for those patients who have difficulty with mobility, this blood collection company can make home visits to obtain these samples.

The costs of obtaining the blood from patients and delivering them to aTyr is borne solely by aTyr itself.

aTyr will test the freshly collected blood samples predominantly to characterize the patient's immune or inflammatory responses to their own muscle disease.

The general information aTyr would gain from multiple FSHD patient blood samples could be instrumental in the future as we carry out FSHD clinical trials in the US and around the world.

Patients who interested in this project should contact the FSH Society (at info@fshsociety.org or 781-301-6649) to obtain details on donating blood for this project.

aTyr respects the important role patients play in drug development. We are grateful that individuals with FSHD would consider helping us with our work to make a difference in this disease.

Sincerely,

Melissa Ashlock, M.D.

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Meaningful Medicines

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