

## New Treatments on the Horizon

### January 2008

It's probably no news to many of you that new medications may be on the near horizon. These pharmacological treatments, including those based on the mGluR and Gaba pathways in the brain, are beginning to undergo testing for safety and effectiveness. Should all go well, some of these medications may be available as early as 2009. The hope is that, *again*, should they prove safe for humans, they will significantly improve learning and memory while lessening anxiety. While we don't know if they will benefit *everyone* with fragile X syndrome, or at all ages, my conversations with my Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee leads me to be cautiously optimistic.

For its part, the National Fragile X Foundation, in addition to [directly funding](#) some of the research related to these treatments, is helping to set the stage for broader testing through the organization and coordination of the [Fragile X Clinics Consortium](#). Currently representing 14 clinics, the consortium members see nearly 1000 patients with fragile X syndrome which, while in the big scheme of things is a relatively small number (which we are determined to see grow) is significant when it comes to having enough subjects, of all ages, for studying the usefulness of the treatments. (And only after safety has been confirmed.)

Another way in which the NFXF is instrumental in the process of developing new treatments is through its organization of the [International Fragile X Conferences](#) every other year. Numerous sessions, both family-friendly and scientific will, focus on the development of new medications. Scientists and clinicians meet face-to-face, in both formal and informal settings, to discuss, share, brainstorm and debate. These same scientists and clinicians are available, again in both formal and informal settings, to answer family member's questions and hear their concerns.

Lastly, the NFXF continues to [advocate](#) for the NIH, CDC and others to provide the basic science and clinical research support necessary to continue moving forward.

The NFXF will continue to keep you informed while we also continue to develop the systems necessary to insure that all individuals with fragile X syndrome, no matter where they live, or what their economic status may be, have the chance to benefit from these likely new opportunities for treatment.

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