



Ataxias in South Wales

Dr. Mark Wardle and Dr. Neil Robertson, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Wales

We have been investigating cerebellar ataxia in South Wales since 1999. In conjunction with local neurologists, geneticists and general practitioners, we have successfully recruited over 160 patients with this disorder. In each patient we perform a detailed clinical evaluation, along with a number of different molecular investigations including genetic and antibody tests. There have been many recent advances in molecular medicine, and we are using these techniques to explore the condition in more detail.

We have found that the condition is highly variable, with some patients having a benign course over many years with very little deterioration, and others having a more aggressive course.

During the research, we successfully identified a number of people with genetic causes including Friedreich's ataxia, SCA6 and DRPLA (Dentatorubral pallidoluysian atrophy). Most of the group do not have a clear cause found for their problems.

Ataxia can have a profound effect on patients and their families, and we are keen to investigate and increase awareness of this important issue. **We would like to hear from any patient in South Wales with cerebellar ataxia.** This includes those patients who have not had a clear cause identified for their problems and those patients who have a known inherited ataxia problem, especially those in whom it started in adulthood. If you want any further information, then please let us know!

Ataxia UK has been very generous in supporting this work, and we want to thank everyone concerned for making the research possible.

For more information and to take part contact:

Dr. Mark Wardle and Dr. Neil Robertson, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Wales

Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XW

Tel: 02920743454 or 02920743798 email: wardle@cardiff.ac.uk

[More information on the project](#)

For support or more information please contact:

Ataxia UK, Winchester House, Kennington Park, Cranmer Road, London SW9 6EJ

Website: www.ataxia.org.uk

Helpline: 0845 644 0606 **Tel:** +44 (0)20 7582 1444 **FAX:** +44 (0)20 7582 9444

Email: research@ataxia.org.uk