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For immediate release

# Press Release

**Whitby, Ontario to host 2<sup>nd</sup> “The Walk to Fight Friedreich's Ataxia” (FA) on September 25, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Heydenshore Park, 589 Water Street. Kyle Bryant, RAAM organizer and FARA spokesperson, will be in attendance, including about 200 participants from Ontario, Quebec, and the UK.**

FA is the most frequent hereditary ataxia, with an estimated prevalence of 3-4 cases per 100,000 individuals. It is a rare but severe neurodegenerative disease characterized by spinocerebellar degeneration. This often fatal, hereditary degenerative neurological disease, primarily affects balance, coordination and speech. It can also lead to severe scoliosis, heart disease and diabetes. Once diagnosed, most patients find themselves confined to a wheelchair within 10 years. At the moment there is no treatment that can stop or cure FA. However some drugs intended to counteract the effects of this disease are presently on trial.

The goal of the Walk is to raise funds for research on FA and to raise public awareness to FA in Ontario.

RAAM - Kyle Bryant Ride Across America Raising awareness and research dollars for Friedreich's Ataxia.

Dr. Mark Tarnopolsky from McMaster University Medical Centre or Dr. Teesta Soman from Toronto Sick Kids Hospital kindly agreed to give a personal interview and answer questions about FA

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To learn more about The Walk to Fight Friedreich's Ataxia please visit:  
[www.thewalktofightfa.com](http://www.thewalktofightfa.com) or [www.lacaf.org](http://www.lacaf.org) to learn more about FA.

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