



# NIH Research is Critical to Treating Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is America's primary medical research agency. NIH's investments improve understanding and lead to scientific advances in the treatment of costly and devastating diseases, including LGMD. NIH research has led to remarkable progress in the treatment of challenging diseases and helps strengthen our economy, NIH grants go to facilities across the country, with research taking place in all 50 states.

*It is imperative that essential LGMD research funded by NIH continues.*

## Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Research Network

- ◆ The Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Research Centers are hosted at various research institutions throughout the United States. Each of these Centers specialize in research into certain forms of or treatments for muscular dystrophy. There are currently six funded research centers.
- ◆ The Centers were established by NIH in 2003 and are supported by 5 year renewable grants.
- ◆ The University of Iowa hosts a seminal research program for LGMD.
- ◆ Wellstone research has led to multiple FDA approved treatments for muscular dystrophies and numerous advances, like those in gene editing, that are paving the way for better treatments for muscular dystrophies.

## The Iowa Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Specialized Research Center

- ◆ The Iowa Wellstone Center houses a research program on LGMD including a long term natural history study, which is critical to understanding the progression of the disease and developing treatments.
- ◆ The Center houses specialized research programs that are essential to scientists as they try to understand and develop treatments for LGMD, including a program that has been instrumental to the identification and verification of novel genetic mutations.
- ◆ The Center has one of the few research programs dedicated fully to LGMD, and it is essential that it continue.

**For Additional Information Regarding Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Day on the Hill, Please Contact Kathryn Bryant Knudson at: [Kathryn@TheSpeakFoundation.com](mailto:Kathryn@TheSpeakFoundation.com).**