

At the 2019 KAND Family & Scientific Engagement Conference in New York City, we asked families affected by KIF1A Associated Neurological Disorder (KAND) to help people understand their challenges and what matters most to them. Here are their responses.

## The most challenging aspect of living with KAND is

"progressive" idea & the related unknowns

not seeing well

living in an inaccessible world

physical toll on family from lifting

educating our doctors

worried there won't be therapy or it's too late for my son

uncertainty/unknown

unknown future, no cure

uncertainty

not enough hours in day (4 kids, full-time job, special needs child). Never complete anything!

not getting to see my child experience normal activities & milestones

not knowing what the future holds for my son the unknown: what's my boy's life going to be? How long do we have?

"Your child looks fine" from the outside people saying "they will grow out of it"

not knowing the Future

how time consuming everything is, leaving little time with other family/kids/husband

constant supervision of child, frustration with child unable to do things others can do & worry about keeping safe

fear of the unknown

seizures

cleaning poop off carpet after our son self-removes nappy (diaper)

battling with
yourself to make the
right choices for your
child

lack of community resources

not being able to do everyday things as easily



### The most challenging aspect of living with KAND is

the future is unknown

the time dedicated every day to make it normal

fear of the unknown

all of the unknowns

knowing what is normal vs. is this a seizure? Is this KIFIA?

uncertainty

comparing your child to others

worrying about the Future

uncertainty

that our son is
very aware & depressed,
angry. It would be better
if he didn't know.

the unknowns

who's going to take care of him, when I won't be there anymore

seeing my girl suffer/in respiratory distress

not knowing what's ahead

being scared of the future

sleep problems

numerous hospitalizations a year = life on standby being isolated and scared of viruses all the time

having to take care of an eternal baby

involving the child with siblings & other children without KIFIA in everyday life

the idea/scare of death

communication

degenerative disease; poor balance - falling;

speech problems; vision problems

the unknown



### The most challenging aspect of living with KAND is

worrying about my child as she goes through life. How will she adjust? the uncertainty of the future the unknown about fear of what is to not knowing the the future come future keeping my daughter the uncertainty of fear of the future the unknown injuries what tomorrow will look like seeing the kids and realizing that you may not be able to make a it is a uncertainty degenerative being independent the fear condition difference to be outside not knowing what's gonna happen next can't cure it (YET!) uncertainty normal human uncertainty families/society experience never getting to see a first smile or (un)consciousness knowing his life is expected to be the unknown the unknown future for me as a mother hear a first laugh shortened

#### I want researchers & doctors to know

what the future holds for my daughter

my kid's name & family more therapeutic options & solitions

we will not give up & my daughter is worth it this condition affects many more people than we know

tell us what we can do, we will MOVE MOUNTAINS to make it happen. Seriously... ANYTHING.

I am not an idiot. My child has a condition that causes...

disabled people are worthy of time, attention and treatment my son is not just a number. He's a person.

we are grateful

our kids are worth it what has worked or not worked for other KIFIA kids

...about every aspect of my kid's condition, not just those relating to his/her specialty my child is a person too... She has feelings and can hear what you are saying I am not crazy... my child has real problems!

his impairment may seem mild but it only affects them mildly, not him

MORE

they must be aggressive in order to win this race with KIFIA

a cure for KIFIA

my child without having to explain his abilities every time

I'm tired of the fact you have limited knowledge of KIFIA. I'm discouraged that
you don't put as much
into it as we do.

I want them to know I'm capable STOP using a diagnosis like CP when you don't know what's wrong. Just say I don't know! about the research into KIFIA and I want you to be involved



#### I want researchers & doctors to know

the importance of continuity of care with all specialists

will surgical intervention do more harm than good?

how to slow the progressiveness of disease

how to control seizures

how to improve vision or at least halt deterioration

it's okay to say "I don't know"

prevent aspiration

how to make progress matter

he is blind not deaf (don't scream at him) about KIFIA and rare diseases

we know our kids & more than the doctors do about their condition at this stage

what to do, what should be checked

he is so sweet & not just a very sick person, he is a "normal" child we will do whatever
we can to move the
research/care/treatment
process along

that treatment is relatively soon!!

how to cure my

I feel like nothing works

so many therapies.... Little progress I'm frustrated by their lack of knowledge & unwillingness to research the condition

I want them to take it more seriously

that we are scared & want to stop this disease from progressing

everything that there is to know & to research it themselves. Don't depend on us.

I want them to do something

more so they can diagnosis more kids and find a treatment



# If treatment can help\_\_\_\_\_, that would make a meaningful difference in our daily lives.

anything

my child tell us how he feels & what he wants my child's happiness ... but being able to live as a full emotional being

her friendships

us to find a cure before it's too late

my son accomplish his life goals

his quality of life

a cure

be ok when I'm gone

my child live on her own with adequate supports to live a rich life on her terms

my daughter be happy & loved my child know she is loved & accepted as she is

my daughter live a full & happy life my child be happy, safe & have a purpose to his life my child live safely but independently

my child be happy & healthy my child be happy, able to learn & not in pain making EVERY moment count

my son have a happy life my child to not be in pain

my child to outlive me

my child's quality of life help him achieve everything he wants & in is capable & interested in

have a good relationship with his siblings my son live a normal life



# If treatment can help \_\_\_\_\_, that would make a meaningful difference in our daily lives.

my child have a chance to live independently

my child to enjoy his life my child be healthy & happy

my child continue to improve & progress him feel good about himself

my child have a chance to live a fulfilled & happy life

my child be safe & happy my child make a friend

my son be able to look me in the eyes my child play with other kids

strengthen our daughter's legs & increase her balance my daughter fall less & be able to keep up with her bro & sis

him to tell us if he is in pain my child keep up with other children & stop falling the disease from progressing

cognitive impairment her talking/communication my child tell me he's hungry or if he's unwell

maintaining mobility & improving memory function her not get pneumonia every time she gets a cold

my child walk & communicate better

his vision

my child communicate what hurts

control my child's seizures



#### What matters most to me is

having my child walk independently & overcome cognitive delays

my child having the coordination to do day-to-day tasks having my child not get too tired to get into the tub (leg weakness)

stopping the getting any worse

my child being able to see better my child falling down less for my daughter to make faster progress

my daughter following her interests & passions having my son run without walking aides

educating others about KIFIA

stopping KIFIA
progression

improving spatial awareness & balance/coordination

stopping the progression

decreasing seizures & repetitive behaviors; improving balance

Preventing my child from falling

having my child communicate at all

stopping my child from having to worry about his safety

my child's ability to walk my child being able to walk

communication with my son

my child having a Future beyond KLFIA Imits. My child has a full life.

knowing how will she be when I can't help anymore

family

my child not being in pain



## What matters most to me is

my child being included in the community

that he feels comfortable

that he is safe

that others see how amazing he is & not for his disability

knowing that my kids will be cared for

he is safe, comfortable, happy my child can somewhat grow up normal & happy and loving having a cure to
stop the progression
of the disease & a chance
to heal

my child's quality of life

her happiness

My child having a functional future & happiness

my child's happiness

my child is happy, smiling all the time to always have good people around & live a normal/regular life similar to his peers

my child is as happy & healthy as possible

for my child to know he is loved! my child being independent

my daughter's happiness daughter's ability to enjoy life he's very loved & happy

my child to live the best life she possibly can

that he is happy, content & pain-free

my child isn't suffering

my child feels loved her comfort; no suffering (no medical aggression)

that her future is not run by KIFIA

for him to be healthy & have a happy life that my child will be taken care of or can take care of herself if/when I can no longer do so



