

# KIF1A Family Meeting

August 13, 2022

# The Goal of this Research

- To support development of treatments for *KIF1A*
- To describe changes in development and health issues over time
- Develop clinical care guidelines
- To understand differences in manifestations according to the variant in the *KIF1A* gene

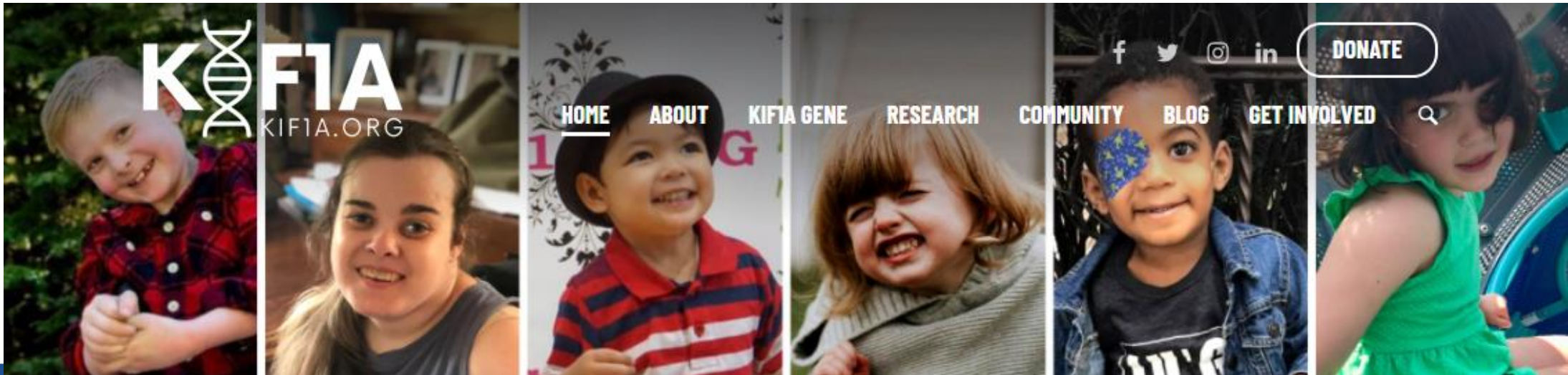
# KIF1A associated neurological disorder (KAND)

Spectrum of conditions caused by pathogenic variants in the gene KIF1A

*De novo*, missense variants

Ranges from severe congenital disease to adult-onset mild progressive spastic paraplegia

>100 causative variants in ~300 individuals worldwide



# What is a natural history study?

- Tracks the course of a disease over time
- Helps identify variables that correlate with disease outcomes in the absence of a specific treatment
- Help us learn from each other and develop best practices

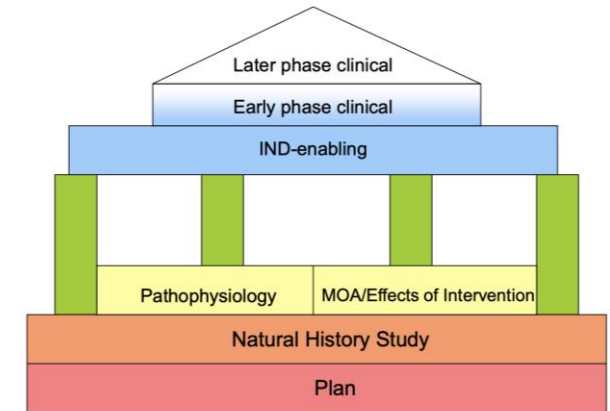
# Why a natural history study?

- Begin with the end in mind!



Slide adapted from Anne Pariser, MD,  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, USFDA

## Foundation Building



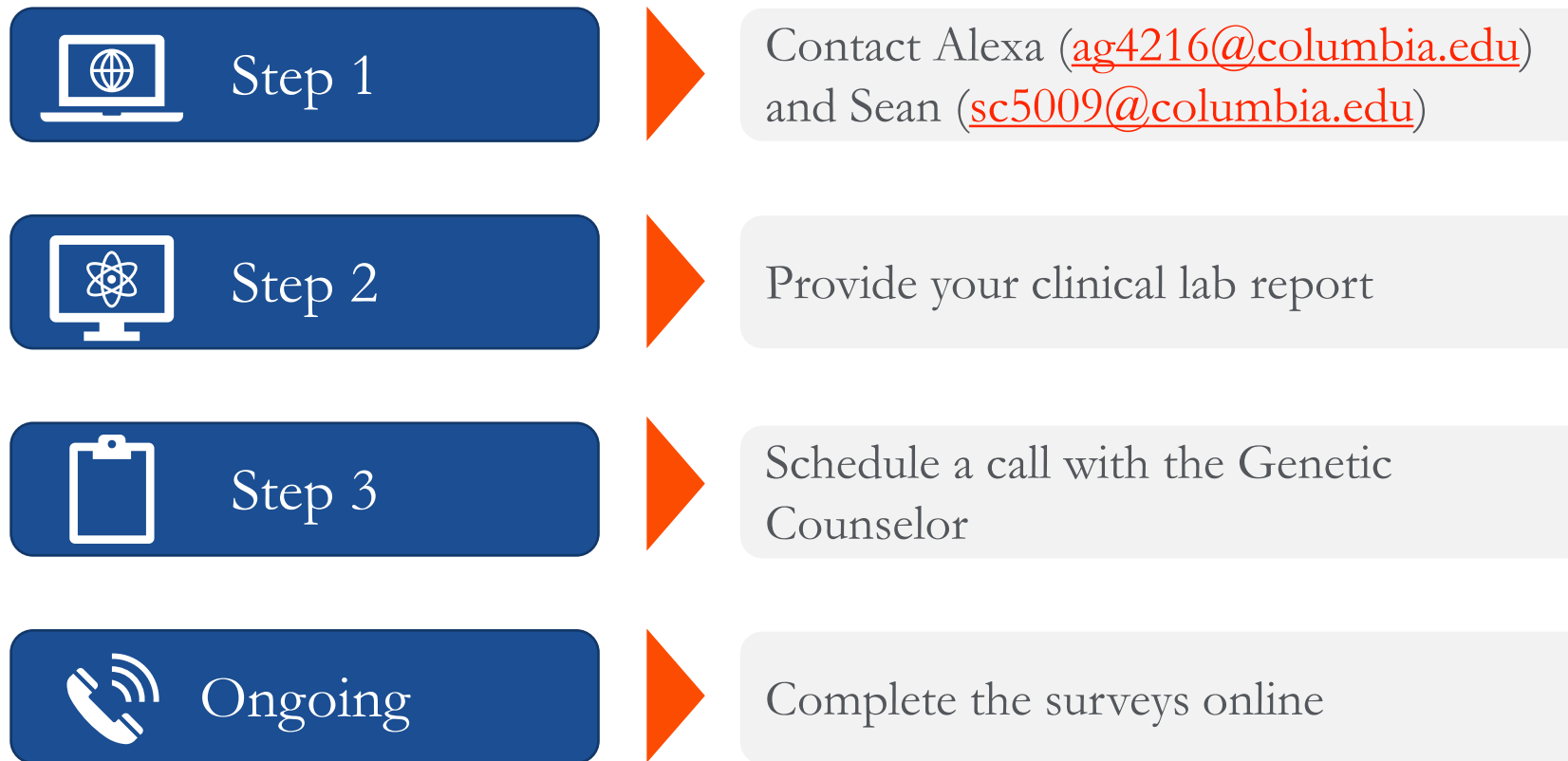
# Why a natural history study?

- Begin with the end in mind!
- Foundational for drug development
- “The top reason why rare disease development programs fail at FDA is the lack of natural history information” – Christopher Austin, head of NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences\*

Slide adapted from Anne Pariser, MD,  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, USFDA

\*Pamela Gavin. Expert Opinion on Orphan Drugs (2015) 3(8):855-857

# KIF1A Natural History Study





# *KIF1A* Family Meeting 2017

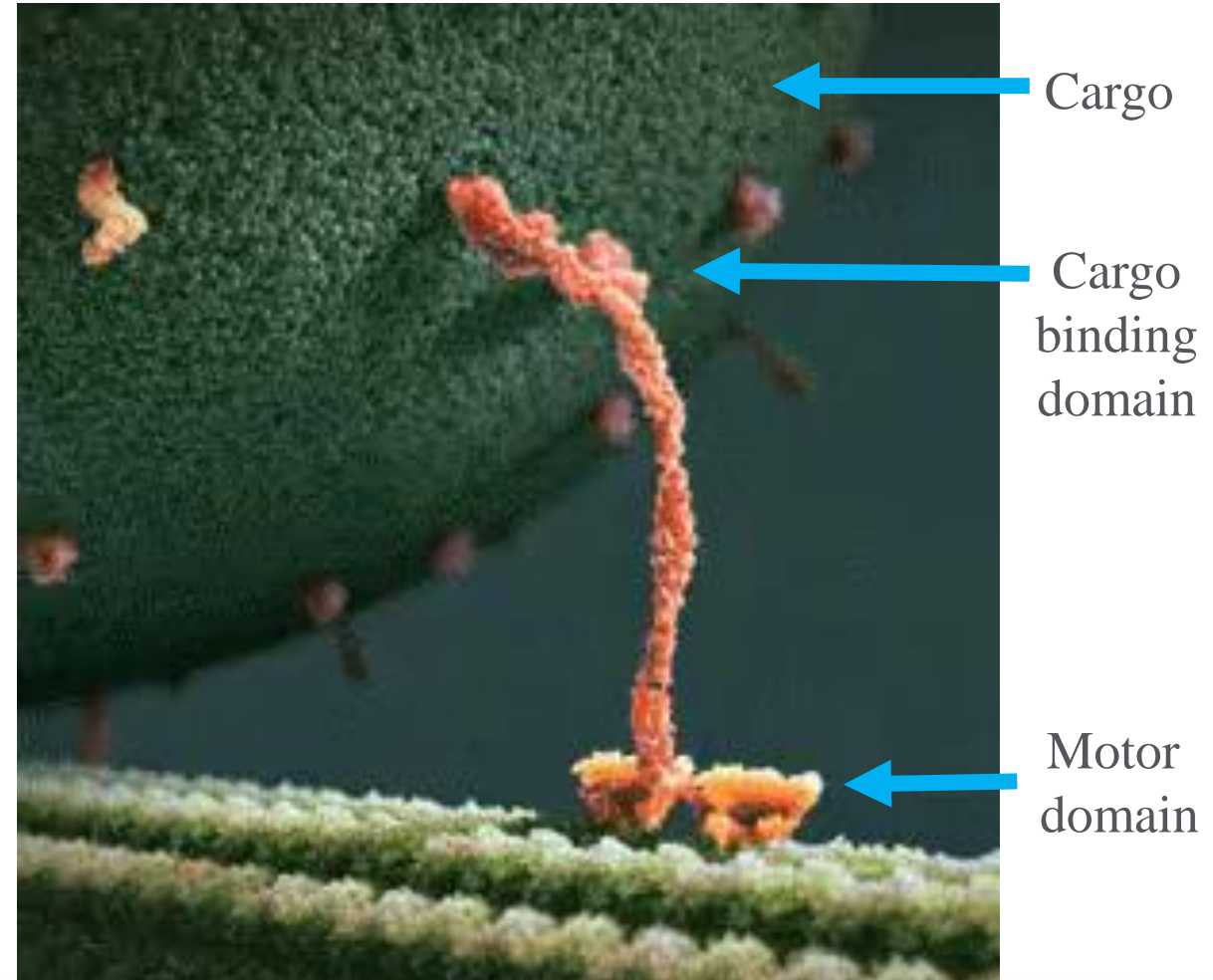




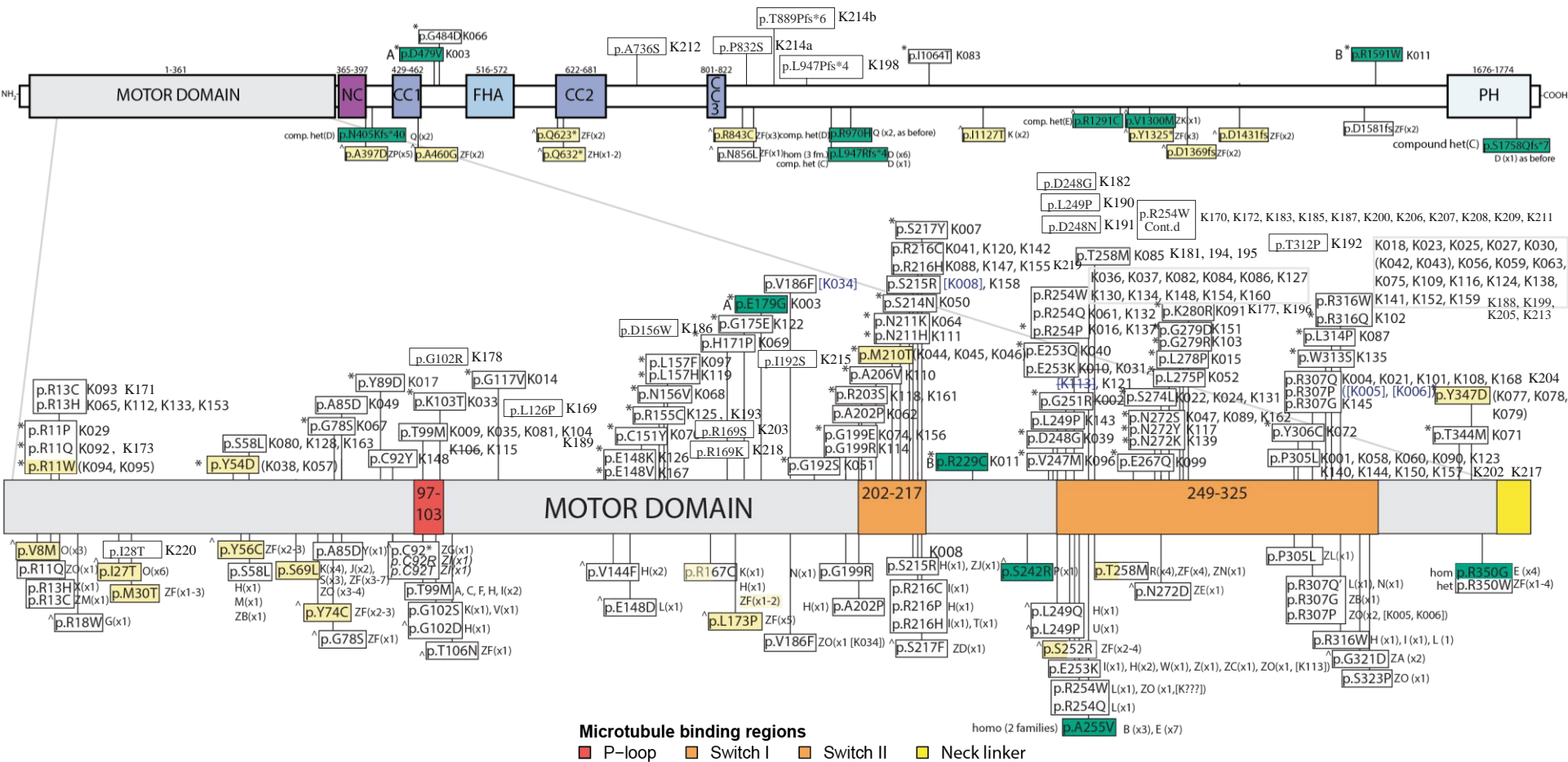
# KIF1A protein

Molecular motor protein in the nervous system

Transports neuronal cargo in axons & dendrites along microtubules



# KIF1A Variants

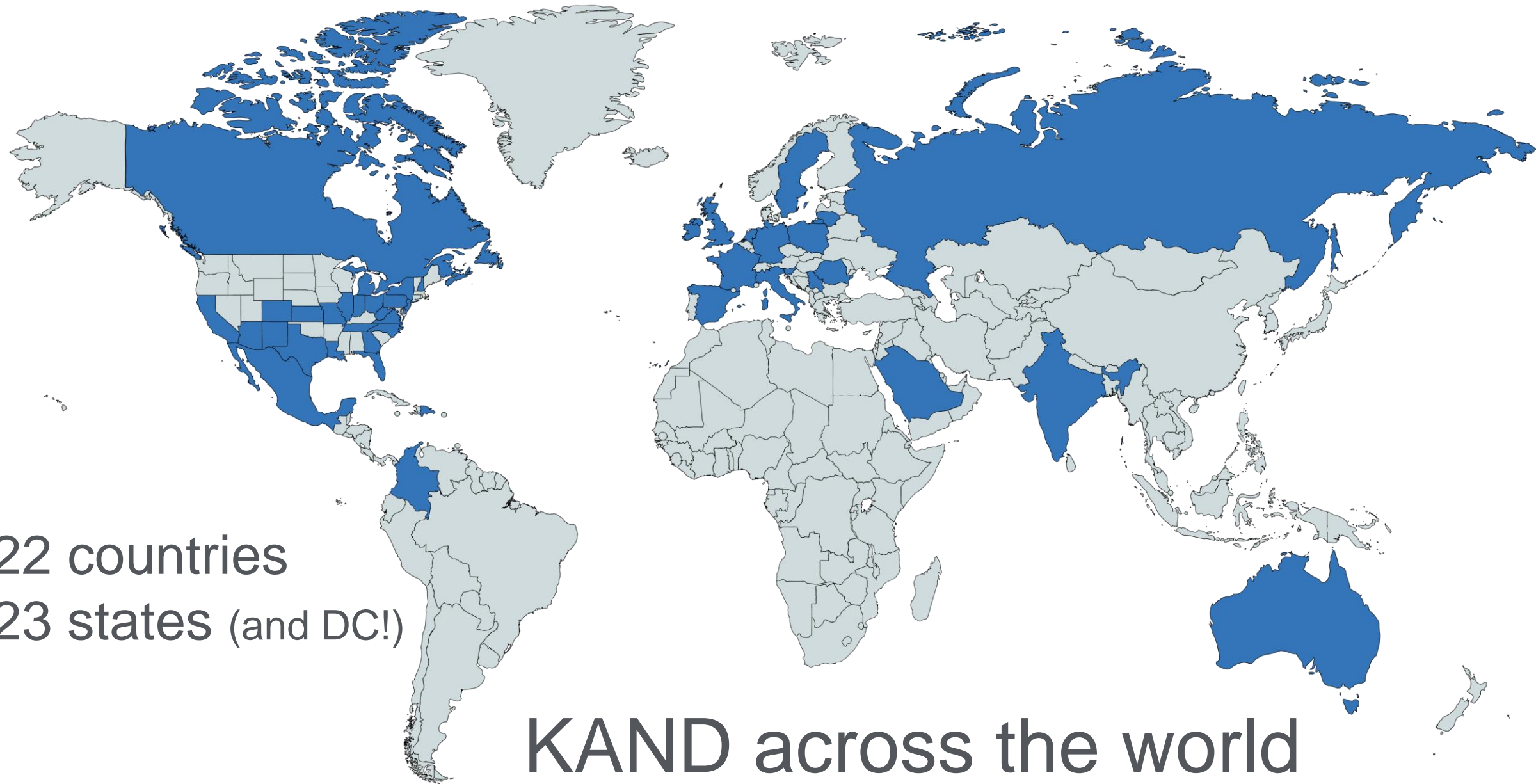


# Study eligibility is based upon KIF1A genetics

- Genetic test report is reviewed for eligibility
- Consent obtained online

# Methods: data collection

- Initial medical history interview via phone/online
- Medical records collected (including genetic test, MRI and EEG data)
- Parent or caregiver completes Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales (*English/Spanish speakers only*)
  - Second edition previously completed via call
  - Third edition now completed online

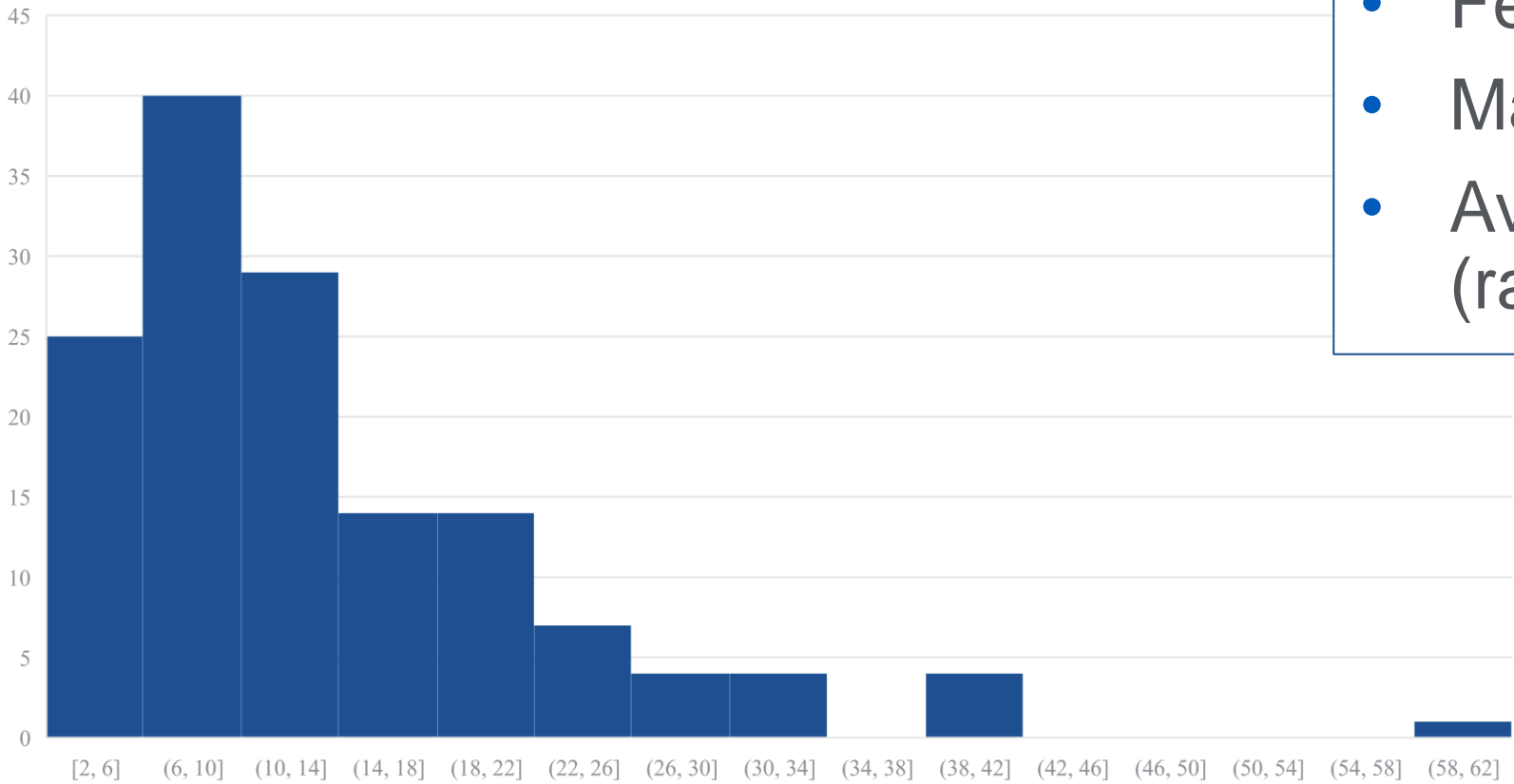


22 countries  
23 states (and DC!)

# KAND across the world

# Participant demographics

Age Distribution



- Female: 46% (66/142)
- Male: 54% (76/142)
- Average age: ~13 years (range: 1.5 – 59)



# KAND: Clinical Snapshot of Symptoms/Features

## Neurological & Behavior

- ★ Developmental delay/  
intellectual disability: 92%
- Seizures: 37%
- Abnormal MRI: 56%
- Cerebellar atrophy: 44%

## Stomach & Digestion

- Reflux: 34%
- Diarrhea: 17%
- Constipation: 35%

## Muscles & Bones

- ★ Hypotonia: 83%
- ★ Hypertonia: 75%
- Scoliosis: 14%

## Vision & Eyesight

- ★ Overall vision/eye conditions: 83%
- Optic nerve atrophy: 43%
- Cortical visual impairment: 16%
- Strabismus: 23%

## Urinary & Reproductive

- Irregularity in genitalia: 18%
- Kidney problems: 23%
- Short stature: 11%
- Absence of growth hormone: 4%
- Peripheral neuropathy: 27%



# Neurological concerns

Hypotonia: 83% (118/142)

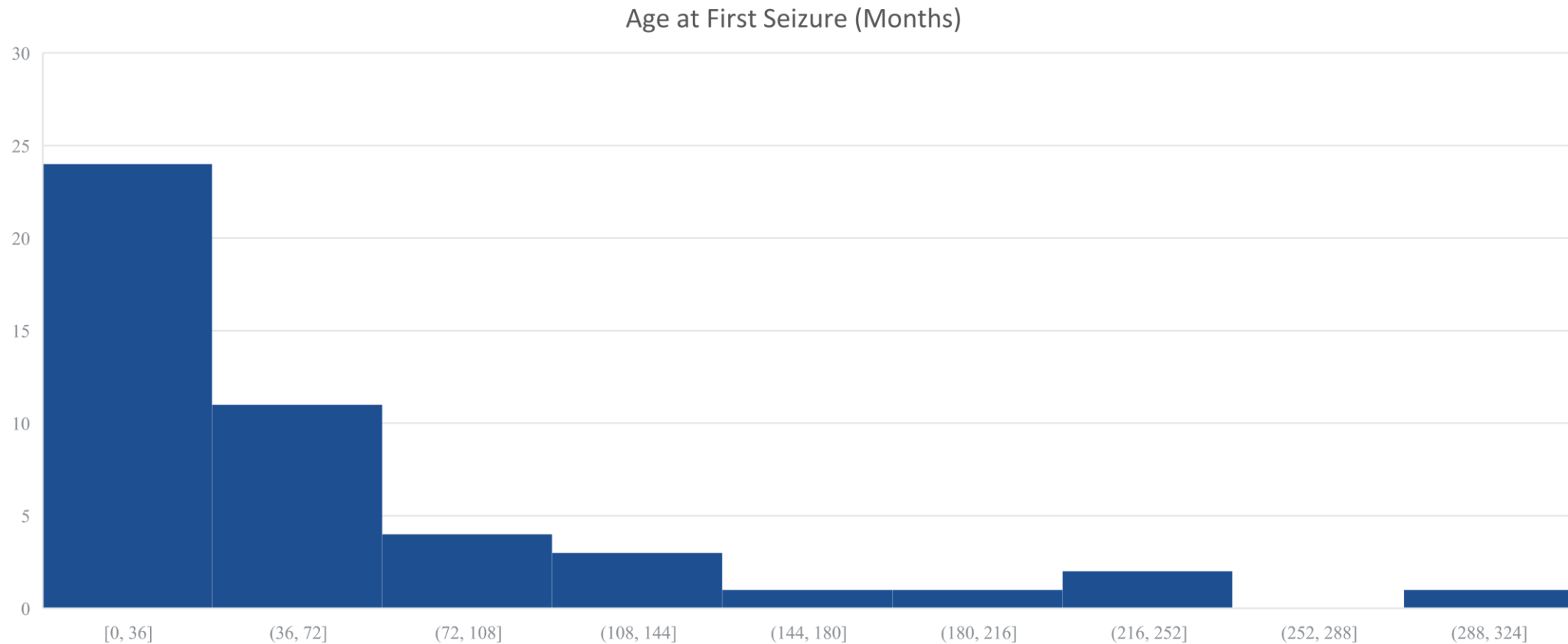
Hypertonia/spasticity: 75% (106/142)

Smaller than expected head size (microcephaly): 15% (21/142)

Previous diagnosis of cerebral palsy: 29% (41/142)

# Seizures and epilepsy

- 37% report seizures (52/142)
- Average age at first seizure: 5 years (median: 3 years)



# Seizures and epilepsy: details

Seizure types: (48% [25/52] have multiple types)

- Petit mal/absence: 67% (35/52)
- Grand mal: 40% (21/52)
- Atonic drop seizures: 19% (10/52)
- Infantile spasm: 8% (4/52)
- Focal seizures: 12% (6/52)
- Complex partial: 6% (3/52)

Treatment refractory: 6% (3/52)

# Seizure Interventions

- 86/142 regularly take any medication (61%)
- Seizure medications
  - Keppra: 17
  - Valproic acid/Depakote: 8
  - Others: ACTH, Lamictal, clobazam, clonazepam, Trileptal, rescue medications
- No participants report VNS or surgical procedure for seizures
- 5 participants report trying the ketogenic diet, 3 of which discontinued as it was not effective

# Other Medications

- Baclofen: 13
- Vyvanse: 4



# Neuroimaging

- Most people have had neuroimaging: 94% (133/142)
- Abnormal MRI: 56% (74/133)
- Normal MRI: 41% (55/133)
- Unsure of result: 3% (4/133)

# Neuroimaging Abnormalities

- Cerebellar atrophy most common: 44% (59/133)
- Abnormalities of the corpus collosum: 20% (26/133)
- Cerebral abnormality: 15% (20/133)

# Eye findings

Issues with vision, eyes or eyesight: 83% (118/142)

Condition	Prevalence
Optic Nerve Atrophy	61 (43%)
Strabismus	33 (23%)
Cortical vision loss	23 (16%)
Corrective lenses	54 (38%)
Cataracts	11 (8%)
Depth perception issue	10 (7%)

# Kidney

Renal issues: 23% (32/142)

- Urinary reflux, absent kidney, hydronephrosis, bladder obstruction, calcification of the kidney, excreting protein in the urine, structural abnormalities of bladder and kidney, urinary urgency

# Urogenital anatomical differences

Urogenital findings: 18% (25/142)

- In females: 9% (6/66)
  - Slight, clinically irrelevant, differences in external female genitalia
- In males: 17% (13/76)
  - 11/76: micropenis, small scrotum
  - 2/76: undescended testicles
  - 2/76: hypospadias

# Endocrine

Endocrine issues: 22% (31/142)

- Short stature: 11% (15/142)
- Failure to thrive: 8% (11/142)
- Growth hormone deficiency: 4% (5/142)
- Precocious puberty: 2% (3/142)



# Gastrointestinal issues

- Requires gastrostomy tube: 6% (8/142)
- Reflux (heart burn): 34% (48/142)
- Constipation: 35% (50/142)

# Additional findings

Increased prevalence of autism, obsessive compulsive behavior and anxiety

Increased pain tolerance

Small, cold hands and feet

Blotchy skin

Difficulty regulating temperature

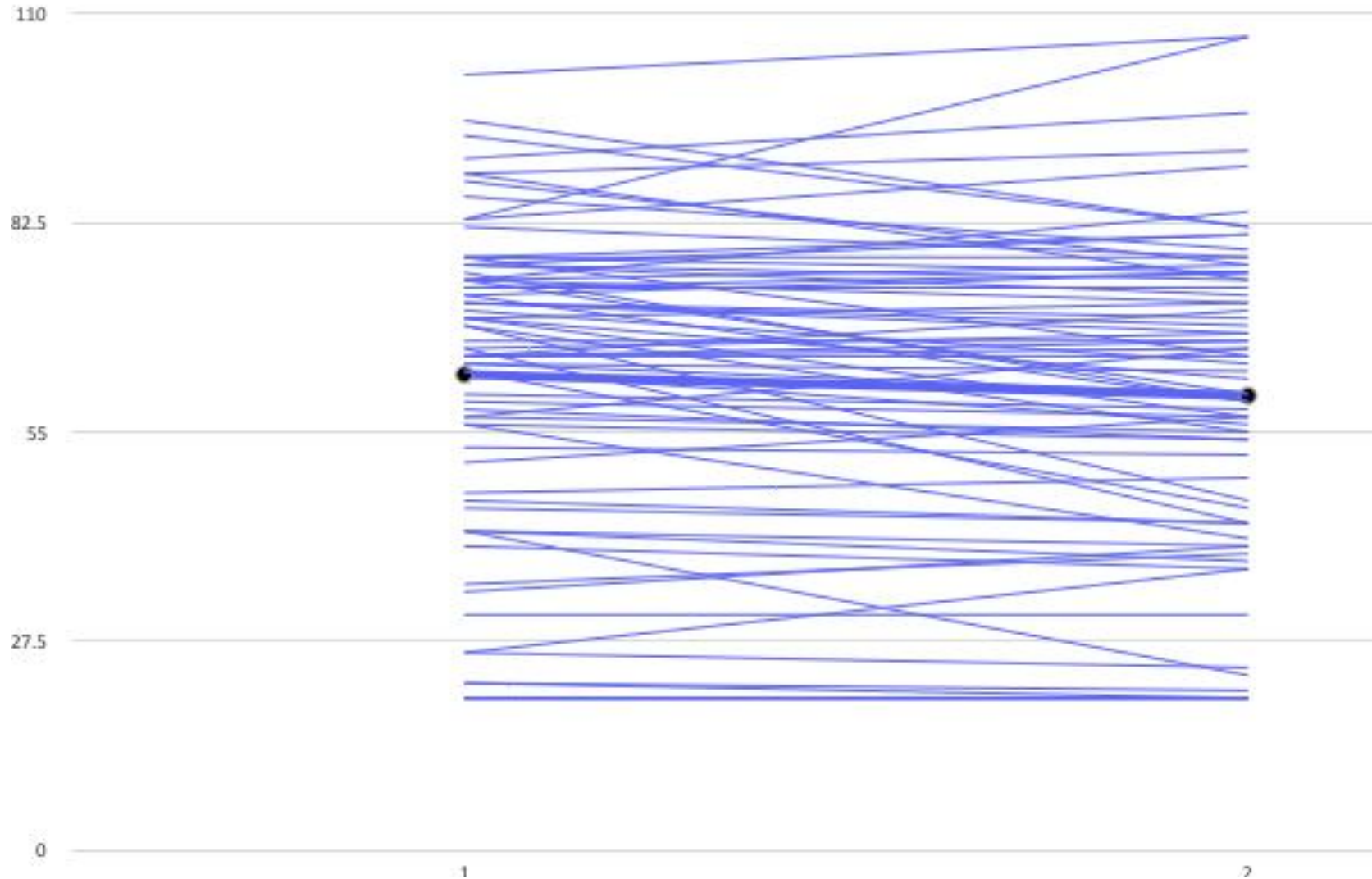
Sleep issues

# Loss of Function Data

Loss of Function Variants	Inheritance
c.798+2_798+5del	De novo
c.798+1G>T	De novo
c.4911+1G>A	De novo
c.2839dupC	Unknown
c.1038-1G>A	De novo
Compound heterozygous: c.2494C>T, c.2664del	Mat/Pat
Deletion of entire coding sequence	Unknown

- 6/7 have no seizures
- Of the 5 who have had brain MRI, 4 were normal
- Reported features: hypotonia, hypertonia, previous cerebral palsy diagnosis, scoliosis

Vineland III: Two Timepoints ~3 years apart



- TP 1 average: 62.6
- TP 2 average: 59.9

# What we don't see

No problems with hearing

No problems with the heart

No autoimmune conditions

# Summary

- Most common symptoms are issues with nervous system (increased and decreased muscle tone and spasticity)
- Seizures are common, with the most frequent seizure types being absence and grand mal
- Abnormal EEGs can be seen without clinical seizures, some people with seizures have normal EEG
- Among vision problems, optic nerve atrophy most common



# Next steps: what we need from you

- Enroll if you have not enrolled
- Submit your genetic test report
- Fill out your baseline surveys
- Complete annual follow ups online
- Rare Epilepsy Survey: enrolled participants will receive an email with a survey link
- Submit original MRI images, EEG tracings
- Are you willing to keep a seizure diary?

# KOALA – The In-Person Natural History Study

- 2-day evaluation at Columbia University Medical Center in NYC
- Eligibility: a genetically confirmed KAND diagnosis
- Evaluations include:
  - Motor evaluation
  - Neuropsychological/neurocognitive
  - Ophthalmologic
  - EEG
  - Neurological exam
  - Photos/videos
  - Blood samples
- You may be eligible for travel reimbursement from kif1a.org
- Contact [kif1a\\_study@cumc.Columbia.edu](mailto:kif1a_study@cumc.Columbia.edu) if you are interested in participating

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## Wendy Chung lab

### Natural history team

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Lia Boyle

**KAND patients and families!**



## Ovid Therapeutics

