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“FRIENDS FOR FRAGILE X” DONATES FUNDS TO UC IRVINE CENTER FOR AUTISM RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION

Funds to Support Research for Rare Disease and Autism

COTO DE CAZA and IRVINE, Calif. – (August XX, 2015) – Driven by the goal and passion to obtain a cure for the genetic condition of Fragile X Syndrome and autism, Friends For Fragile X donated $25,000 to UC Irvine Center for Autism Research and Translation (CART). The donation was presented by Adam Bauer of Friends for Fragile X to John Gargus, M.D., Ph.D. at UC Irvine CART in an effort to advance research and promote public awareness of the genetic disease.

Fragile X Syndrome currently affects one in 3,600 children and does not have a known cure. The condition is the most common cause of inherited mental impairment and autism, which ranges from learning disabilities to more severe cognitive or intellectual disabilities.

“Friends for Fragile X continues to be inspired by the progress great organizations like UC Irvine’s Center for Autism Research and Translation are making toward finding a cure for Fragile X and autism,” said Bauer, Friends of Fragile X Board of Director member and whose son is affected by the disease. “We are convinced that the cutting-edge research being done at UC Irvine CART will change the world for those children affected by Fragile X and autism disorders.”

UC Irvine CART, along with other research organizations, remains heavily involved with the autism community, and continues to be of great help to Friends of Fragile X throughout the year. The donation will go towards expanding UC Irvine CART’s scope and global reach, focus on the genetic underpinnings of autism and investigational clinical trials and treatments for Fragile X and autism.

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“Fragile X is an important component of Autism spectrum disorder and has served as a paradigm in research leading to an understanding of this complex heterogeneous disorder, now affecting about 2 percent of children but arising from a poorly defined etiology. UC Irvine Center for Autism Research and Translation (CART) was founded to solve the complexity of this disorder, and does so by integrating expertise and resources across multiple disciplines with the goal of developing the first transformative treatments for autism” said Gargus, director of CART and professor, physiology & biophysics and division of human genetics, pediatrics at UC Irvine. “Much of UC Irvine CART’s work has focused on Fragile X itself as a model, and exciting developments have already emerged from our group with great promise as human cell-based diagnostics, immediately applicable spaced learning approaches, and mouse-model discoveries of new brain-based drug targets. The generous support from Friends of Fragile X make this research possible.”

**About UC Irvine Center for Autism Research and Translation**

The mission of the UC Irvine Center for Autism Research and Translation is to develop the first transformative treatment of autism within five years.

To achieve that goal, UC Irvine CART is coupling cutting-edge discovery and top-notch research methodologies with preclinical and clinical testing of new drugs and diagnostics. The focus is on creating state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment for individuals with autism. Additional information is available at: [http://autismresearch.uci.edu/](http://autismresearch.uci.edu/)

**About Friends for Fragile X**

Friends for Fragile X will continue its dedication to raising funds to support research for the disease through the annual Red, White and Blue Fundraiser which will be held on September 12, 2015 in Ladera Ranch. The gala will feature all-American eats, live music by Sabrina Lentini and dancing. Proceeds from the fundraiser will again be distributed to nonprofit organizations focused on Fragile X research and treatment.

For more information on Friends for Fragile X, visit [friendsforfragilex.org](http://friendsforfragilex.org). Friends for Fragile X is a California-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible.

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**Photo caption:**

(left to right): Adam Bauer, Friends of Fragile X Board of Director member presents a $25,000 donation check to John Gargus, director of CART and professor, physiology & biophysics and division of human genetics, pediatrics at UC Irvine. The funds will advance research at the UC Irvine Center for Autism Research and Translation and promote public awareness of Fragile X and autism.