

## ***From the Executive Director Joel Sutherland***

Hi everyone,

Well, in the latest issue of Generations, I mentioned that there are a number of changes coming from the NAF in 2017. One of those changes, or in this case additions, is the production and distribution of a monthly NAF e-Newsletter. Well, here it is!

The idea here is to provide you with the latest information from the NAF. It is not intended to be long in detail, but give you a “taste” of what’s going on here at the NAF Office in Minneapolis. We will provide links for you to “click on” for more information on topics we hope you will find interesting. As you’ll see in upcoming issues, we’ll work to provide you with the latest news on research efforts, fundraising ideas and programs from around the country. We will keep you informed about upcoming conferences and keep you informed about new initiatives coming from the NAF. While this e-newsletter is a work in progress, please feel free to share your thoughts or comments about “anything NAF” by writing to me at [joel@ataxia.org](mailto:joel@ataxia.org).



In this, our first issue, you’ll find a recap of the research that is being funded from more than 100 applications that we received in 2016. You can find a news release from Bioblast Pharmaceuticals informing you of what their latest research has found. You will see that we encourage all those diagnosed with Ataxia to take part in the Cords Registry. You will learn about our efforts to launch a “60 for 60” campaign national and, finally, you will see that there is still time to register for this year’s Annual Ataxia Conference coming up in early March in beautiful San Antonio, Texas.

We hope and trust that over time you will find this e-newsletter to be informative and of interest. Beyond that we hope that it will spur you on to become even more involved with NAF efforts. Be it registering for Cords, encouraging others to register or to become more involved with our local grassroots fundraising efforts, I hope you’ll see this e-newsletter as a warm welcome to become more involved.

Thank you very much for the generosity so many of you have shared over the years. Be it through your time, effort or financial support we thank you.

All the best!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel".