

CCM Italia/AIAC

CCM Italia is promoting and encouraging a large cooperative effort among clinical and basic research centers in Italy, providing a useful framework for coordinated and integrated research approaches. The goal of this effort is to identify the additional factors that may modify the range of severity and other features of CCM disease, and thereby determine the large variability in disease severity.

Medical genetics centers offering genetic diagnosis and counseling to CCM patients and at-risk relatives are already active in many Italian locations. Furthermore, based on growing evidence in cellular and animal models of CCM disease, we have recently launched a multidisciplinary research project aimed at screening potential genetic and environmental risk factors that can modulate the onset and severity of CCM disease. This project, coordinated by the Torino and Siena CCM Italia Units, already involves several clinical and basic research centers across Italy; it will remain open to other teams interested in joining the network at a later stage.

To be successful, the project relies not only on the strong cooperation between researchers but also, and especially, in the active participation of CCM patients and their relatives.

Francesco Retta



Professor Francesco Retta and the CCM Italia team.

Angioma Alliance Canada

2013 has been a very active year for the Angioma Alliance Canada. On June 8, the second annual Cavernous Angioma Family Conference was held in Hamilton, Ontario. Attendees learned about the latest developments in scientific research. Neurosurgeon Dr. Chris Wallace and research scientist Dr. Brent Derry presented some new insights into our search for a cure. We presented Dr. Derry with our first financial

contribution to research in Canada. A big thank you goes out to Lea Labelle-McKinley, our fundraising director, who made this possible.

Our organization has also laid the groundwork for its own scientific advisory board. We have received confirmation of three highly respected and dedicated individuals: Dr. Derry of Toronto Sick Kids, Dr. Wallace, from

Kingston, and R. Loch Macdonald a neurosurgeon from Toronto. We thank these individuals for their support and dedication to our cause of "Working Towards a Cure."

The Angioma Alliance Canada has also expressed its interest in supporting Dr. Jacques P. Tremblay from Montreal as he works toward a new project that will create gene therapies for rare genetic diseases, such as Cavernous Angioma. Although Dr. Tremblay has not confirmed to us that he will target Cavernous Angioma, it is our hope that by providing support, he will consider our disease a viable candidate in his research.

We can proudly look at the future knowing that research into Cavernous Angioma is progressing well on all fronts and that new endeavours are sprouting up everywhere.

Henk van der Wilt



Dr. Brent Derry and his team with Shawn Mulvihill and his son Jaxon: cheque presentation at the Derry Lab, Sick Kids Hospital, Toronto.