

Lay Progress Report
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We have made significant progress on our Discovery Grant entitled “Evaluating Janus Kinase (JAK) Inhibition for Treatment of Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP)”. CIDP is an autoimmune disease of the peripheral nervous system. In this project, we are testing a new approach in treating this condition in a mouse model. This approach utilizes FDA-approved medications that are already being used in other autoimmune conditions but has not yet been used for CIDP. These medications (JAK inhibitors) block a molecular pathway called JAK-STAT signaling. So far, we have found that JAK inhibitors can block the activation of immune cells that are important in causing CIDP. This is an important first step before we try this JAK inhibitor in our mouse model of CIDP. In the next year, we will see whether JAK inhibitor can protect our mice from CIDP. If we find that it does, we hope to propose a clinical trial in patients with CIDP.