**Recognizing Huntington’s Gratitude Day**

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**What?** A social media event recognizing the unique partnership between families and scientists working together towards an effective treatment, or “cure,” for HD on March 23rd, the anniversary of the discovery of the gene. In the greater community of families and scientists, the “gene find” is the most recognized date of the year.

 It spotlights the contributions to that milestone achievement by impoverished families living with HD in Venezuela. They contributed their DNA to scientists of the U.S.-Venezuela Collaborative Research Project, led by Nancy Wexler, beginning in 1979. The partnership that led to the discovery of the HD gene.

 Families thank scientists all the time. Scientists thank families every chance they get. Together on Gratitude Day, we all appreciate our partnership together.

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**Why?** There are several reasons to mark Gratitude Day:

* In many ways our partnership is unique in all of Science.
* The partnership is the foundation of all we have achieved to date.
* From CAG counts, to genetic testing, gene-free babies, and clinical trials, our partnership has already changed the experience of living with HD.
* The promising conclusion to the great quest for a “cure” will come from our partnership.
* As an initiative launched by Factor-H, we acknowledge the contributions of those original Venezuelan families who remain living in extreme poverty and our work to serve them.

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**H-Hands** The “H-Hands” sign is our symbol. It’s made by joining your hands together in the common “heart hands” sign, then extending your index or “pointer” fingers, creating an “H.” It represents both the values of Factor-H and our community at large: Huntington’s, Humanity and Hope. Used in photographs to show your participation.

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**How?** You can participate yourself, as family, friend, colleagues, lab staff, bench mates or any other team making the H-Hands sign:

* Post a personal message, video, or photo on any social media platform as early as Monday March 17th to recognize our unique partnership!
* We encourage you to use the logo and do “H-Hands” photos.
* Last year, people posed in their offices, labs, next to their MRI machines, outside corporate offices, hospitals, or buildings with their entire team making H-Hands. Families and friends posted their closeups, in kitchens, and on couches.
* Poems, songs, signs, stories…we encourage you!
* Use #HDGratitudeDay to share it!

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**Special** On Sunday, March 23rd, we are livestreaming a program fromthe villages with **Livestream** the highestprevalence of HD in the world, Barranquitas and San Luis. We’ll show you around, chat with families, show you how they mark Gratitude Day and feature some of the scientists who were partners on that pioneering team.

 That’s at :

 Venezuela 1:00 p.m. Los Angeles 10:00 a.m.

 New York. 1:00 p.m. London 5:00 pm

 Cent’ Euro’ 6:00 p.m Sydney, AU 4:00 a.m. next day

 Here’s the link to join us:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84210590895?pwd=69RhPzlFUf1T6U543ZawFaHjklY9na.1>

Code:230325 // Webinar-ID: 842 1059 0895

Phone Dial Ins: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kV6N7k4cS>

 Following the livestream, we’ll have a session to discuss everything about the it and Gratitude Day in general.

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**Factor-H** Our small band of volunteers organizing Gratitude Day ask you to support Factor-H, our charity serving the descendants of those original family partners still living in extreme poverty in Venezuela. You can learn more about them, our work and donate at [www.Factor-H.org](http://www.Factor-H.org).

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**More info?** Thanks to the hundreds of scientists and families who participated last year. Because it’s viral, it’s difficult or impossible to thank you all individually.

 Questions, more information? Please contact any one of us who are organizing it:

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