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The **Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)** is a non-profit dedicated to curing Friedreich's ataxia (FA) through research. FA is a genetic, progressive neuromuscular disease that affects an estimated 5,000 individuals in the U.S. and 15,000 worldwide. FARA grants and activities provide support for FA research, pharmaceutical/biotech drug development, clinical trials, and scientific conferences. FARA also serves as a catalyst between the public and scientific community to create worldwide exchanges of information that drive medical advances.

Connect is a mission-driven nonprofit that helps San Diego's innovation ecosystem work more like a true ecosystem. Founded in 1985, Connect supports life science and technology companies with curated programs, advising, visibility, and access to capital without taking equity. It convenes founders, investors, universities, corporations, and partners to strengthen pathways, proof, and platform across the region for long-term shared momentum.

French BioBeach is a San Diego-based biotech cluster. It connects American, French, and Francophone life science professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers, and companies working across the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors. Established in 2006, it bridges the San Diego biotech hub and France's innovation landscape, facilitating scientific exchange and collaboration. Our network comprises members from across industry and academia, with strong representation in gene therapy, rare diseases, and early-stage therapeutic development.

The Science and Technology Office promotes scientific and technological cooperation between France and the United States. Its mission is to foster researcher mobility, support academic and industrial partnerships, and strengthen collaborations between universities, research organizations, companies, and innovation ecosystems on both sides of the Atlantic.

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The **Sanford Stem Cell Institute's Strategic Advisory Research Team (START)** supports researchers during the preclinical development of regenerative medicine and gene therapies. The START helps investigators by providing strategic, technical, and regulatory compliance guidance during the steps leading up to an initial human study. The START is also extremely proficient in advising the preparation multi-million dollar preclinical grant funding applications, including those of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine. START activities directly facilitate FDA drug trial approval and transition to clinical trials at the UC San Diego Alpha Clinic.

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