

What is The Jane Bruckel Research Fund?

Once in a lifetime, an organization has the opportunity to honor its retiring Founding Executive Director, the person whose dreams gave the organization life, purpose and vitality. We have that opportunity this year – to honor Jane Bruckel and celebrate her 23 years of dedication to improving the lives of AS patients everywhere.



Providing information for those patients when none was previously available was the dream that led Jane to co-found the SAA.

Her visionary leadership has brought the organization from those modest beginnings to where it is today – the largest single resource for people affected by AS and related diseases. Jane's long-ago dream is now a reality.

As the organization grew, thanks to the support of thousands of loyal and dedicated members, new dreams evolved. The most ambitious – funding the research that will lead us to our ultimate goal: the cure.

The Jane Bruckel Research Fund is designed to serve all those who face the challenges of living with AS – from patients not yet diagnosed to those learning to live with and prevail over this disease.

Without targeted, collaborative research, a world without the pain and suffering of AS is just a dream. By supporting The Jane Bruckel Research Fund you can do your part to make this dream come true.

Since its inception, SAA has championed the cause of advancing AS research. The Jane Bruckel Research Fund is the next phase in the Quest for the Cure.

SAA Initiates First Major North American AS Research Study

When SAA began raising seed money for the AS Family Genetic Study, other funding sources started to take a closer look at AS research. SAA was able to leverage \$150,000 in seed funds to obtain \$5.5 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH.) This important study has already identified regions on seven chromosomes that contribute to the cause of AS and is now beginning the next round of research to discover the specific genes that will some day lead to a cure.



SAA Co-Founder Jane Bruckel with young researchers at the National Institutes of Health.

SAA Sponsors Conference to Address Research Needs

In 2006, researchers from around the world gathered for a two-day scientific conference co-sponsored by SAA and the NIH. "Spondyloarthritis 2006: The Unmet Needs" conference identified the next steps in advancing AS research. SAA will continue to be a driving force in the scientific community until the cure is found.

SAA Supports Young Researchers

By making initial investments now in the next generation of researchers, SAA is ensuring that future research challenges will be met successfully.

SAA to Develop Screening Tool to Speed Early Diagnosis

SAA and its research partners are working to create a screening tool to help people with back pain determine their likelihood of having AS, thus promoting early diagnosis. The questionnaire-like screening tool will be made widely available on the Internet, generating interest and raising awareness of the disease.

All of SAA's research efforts to date have evolved beyond initial expectations, yielding much more than a return on investment. The Jane Bruckel Research Fund will draw on this momentum to maximize the benefits of the projects it funds so that we will reach our goal – a future without the pain and suffering of AS and related diseases.



The Spondylitis Association of America's mission is to be a leader in the quest to cure ankylosing spondylitis and related diseases, and to empower those affected to live life to the fullest.

For more than 20 years, SAA has been behind every major milestone in AS education and research.

BY SUPPORTING THE
JANE BRUCKEL RESEARCH FUND,
SAA'S MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WILL ENHANCE THE ORGANIZATION'S
ABILITY TO RESPOND TO NEW RESEARCH
NEEDS AS THEY ARISE,
AS WELL AS CONTINUE THE
IMPORTANT PROJECTS
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.



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14827 Ventura Blvd., Ste 222
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
800-777-8189
www.spondylitis.org

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THE NEXT PHASE

IN SAA'S QUEST

TO ADVANCE

RESEARCH FOR AS

AND RELATED DISEASES

