Monthly Newsletter

November 4th, 2025 **CTNNB1 FOUNDATION** **Issue #7**

Dear CTNNB1 community,

This month marks a truly extraordinary moment in our shared journey - **the approval of our first-ever clinical trial for CTNNB1 syndrome.** Together, we've turned what once felt like a distant dream into a concrete reality.

Every late night, every donation, every show of support has led us to this point.

In this edition, we celebrate this groundbreaking milestone, share exciting updates about the **Dragonfly Study's expansion to Australia**, announce the **2026 International CTNNB1 Conference in Barcelona**, and highlight our continued **fundraising efforts** to reach the final stretch toward treatment.

We also bring you an inspiring story of hope - **Edan's journey with gene therapy for SMA**, a reminder of the life-changing potential that lies ahead for CTNNB1 children.

Best,
The CTNNB1 Team

Community News

The Dragonfly Study is expanding to Australia!

We are very pleased to share that **Dragonfly Natural History Study** is expanding to **Australia**!
🌏

This means families from Australia, and potentially neighbouring regions such as New Zealand and Southeast Asia, to participate without the need to travel long distances to Europe.

💡 The study aims to learn more about CTNNB1 syndrome by gathering data from standard clinical assessments to carefully track how children grow and change over time. By combining this information with data from other children around the world, researchers can better understand the condition and support the development of future treatments.

In Australia, children will be invited to attend clinical examinations performed by experienced professionals — including **paediatric neurologists, psychologists, physiotherapists**, and other specialists. Parents and carers will also be invited to complete several **questionnaires and interviews**, helping

researchers understand family priorities and experiences that will guide the design of future clinical trials.

👩‍🔬 Researchers from **Sydney Children's Hospital** will be analysing anonymous data from regular clinic assessments (e.g., strength, mobility, hand function, speech, and cognition), as well as reviewing medical records.

📅 **Info Session**: Tuesday, 18th November at 7:30 PM AEDT (Sydney Time) via Zoom

📨 To confirm your attendance or learn more, please contact **Christian Meagher** at: c.meagher@unsw.edu.au

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Research & Clinical Trial Updates

✨ **Our Clinical Trial Has Been Approved!** ✨

We are beyond excited to share the news that **our clinical trial application has been officially approved!** 🎉

This marks the biggest milestone in our foundation's history. The **first-ever CTNNB1 gene therapy treatment is on its way.**

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our amazing team of researchers, including **Dr. Damjan Osredkar**, our Principal Investigator, who will be leading this study, and our preclinical scientists **Dr. Leszek Lisowski, Dr. Andrea Perez-Iturralde, Dr. Duško Lainšek**, and many others who have made this dream possible.

And to our incredible **CTNNB1 community** — we could not have done this without you. 💙

Every single donation, message of support, and moment of belief has brought us to this point. Together, we have developed this treatment entirely **under a non-profit model**, showing the true power of collaboration and love.

Our clinical trial activities are moving quickly. The **contract with the hospital** will be signed in the coming days, and we are hopeful that **the first patient may be treated later this year**.

❓What happens next?
Once the hospital contract is signed and the study is officially registered on **ClinicalTrials.gov**, **CTNNB1 patients will be able to apply** for participation. The clinical trial, **GAIN-CTNNB1,** is a *Phase I/II open-label trial* designed to evaluate the **safety, tolerability, and early signs of efficacy** of our **AAV9-based gene replacement therapy**, delivered directly into the brain (bilateral intracerebroventricular administration).

The study, officially titled:

GAIN-CTNNB1: A Phase I/II open-label trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and preliminary efficacy of intracerebroventricular

administration of an AAV9-based gene replacement therapy in paediatric patients with CTNNB1 syndrome

has been assigned the EU CT Number: **2025-522719-40-00**.

It will include a **minimum of 12 children aged 2-12 years**. The first group (ages 6-12) will be treated first, and if no safety concerns arise after the first 3 patients, the study will expand to include younger children aged 2-12.

We are filled with hope and gratitude as we take this historic step forward, **for our children, for our families, and for the entire CTNNB1 community.** 💙

The future has never looked brighter.

Events

📅 **Mark Your Calendars: 4th International CTNNB1 Syndrome Conference**

We're excited to announce the **dates and location** for next year's conference!

The 2026 International CTNNB1 Syndrome Conference will take place in **Barcelona, Spain**, from **June 18–19, 2026**.

Clinical examinations will be held **June 16–19**, at the same venue, the **Hotel SB Diagonal Zero Barcelona,** to make participation smoother and minimize travel between locations.

To support families, on-site childcare will again be available at the hotel **with prior registration**, just like this year. The hotel is conveniently located near the beach and only 20–30 minutes from the city center, offering a perfect mix of learning, collaboration, and relaxation.

🗳️ **Registration for the conference and clinical examinations will open in January–February 2026.**

More info on website soon

Fundraising Updates

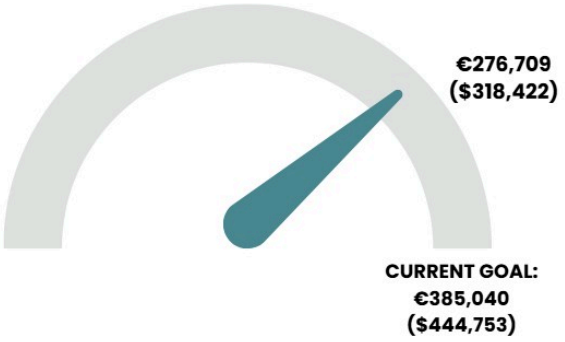
🚩 **Help Us Cross the Finish Line**

Since the start of September, we've raised an additional **€23,155 ($26,625)** - an incredible show of support from our community!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated, and a special shout-out to Lucas Dreckman, Jodie Lambert, and Sebastian Peuser for their generous contributions.

We're getting close - just one final stretch to go.

The biggest challenge we face right now is **funding.** While we're moving steadily toward the clinical trial, we urgently need to raise the **remaining €108,331** in the coming weeks to keep the development going.



Every euro brings us closer to delivering this life-changing gene therapy to children with CTNNB1 syndrome.

💫 **Please consider donating or sharing our campaign today. Together, we can bring this to the finish line.**

Donate on Givebutter

Stories of Impact: Edan

Edan, now a happy, active 7-year-old boy, was one of the very first children in the world to receive gene therapy for **Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)**, a rare genetic disorder that affects the motor neurons in the spinal cord and brainstem. These are the cells that control the muscles we use to move, breathe, and swallow. Once these motor neurons are lost, they cannot be restored.

Without treatment, the most severe forms of SMA progress rapidly. Children often require permanent breathing support, and tragically, life expectancy is typically less than two years.

But Edan's story is one of hope and timing.

He was born in October 2018, just as Minnesota became the third U.S. state to include SMA in its newborn screening panel. For a time-sensitive disease like SMA, early diagnosis can be the difference between life and death. Thanks to newborn screening, Edan's condition was detected immediately, and his life was saved.

At only two weeks old, Edan began treatment with Spinraza (given by intrathecal injection). Then, at three months old, he was treated with **Zolgensma** (a one-time gene therapy delivered through a simple intravenous infusion) when it became available through an early access program. This groundbreaking treatment replaces the missing or non-functioning SMN1 gene, allowing the body to produce the vital SMN protein that keeps motor neurons alive.

Because Edan was treated before symptoms appeared, he was able to avoid the devastating effects of the disease. His family traveled to a clinical trial site in Madison, Wisconsin, to access the therapy, and from there on everything changed. Where SMA once claimed the lives of many babies, stories like Edan's are now becoming more common thanks to early screening and advanced treatment options.

URBAGEN uses the same technology as the gene therapy that Edan received, the same AAV9 vector and promoter that drive gene expression. This makes his story especially meaningful for our community, as his success gives us real reason for hope.

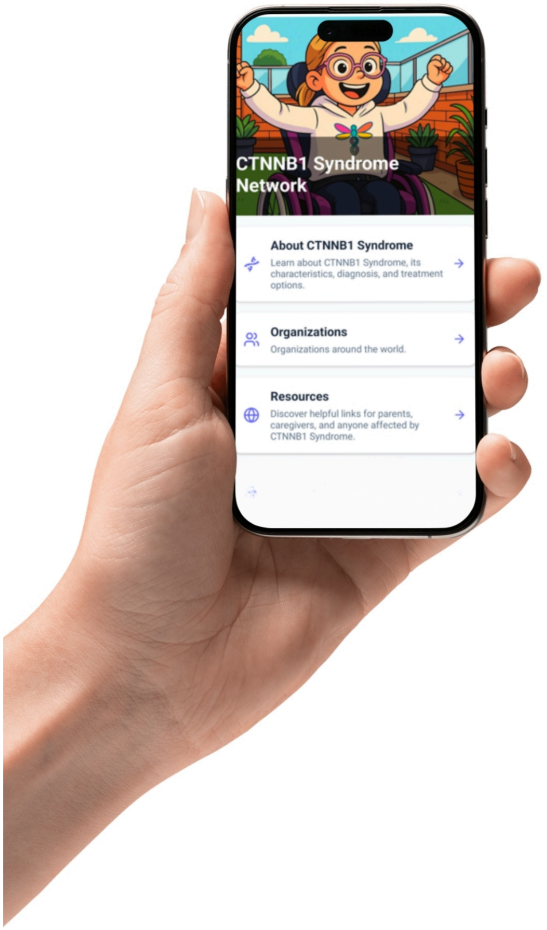
Of course, gene therapy is not without risks, and families must carefully weigh the benefits and potential side effects when choosing a treatment path. But stories like Edan's show what is possible when science, timing, and access come together.

Edan's mother, **Carolyn**, has become a passionate advocate for **newborn screening** - not just for SMA, but other rare conditions as well. She now lends her voice to other rare disease communities, including **CTNNB1**, recognizing how critical early diagnosis is for children with any genetic condition. She has been a wonderful supporter of our mission - helping raise awareness, advocate for our community, and contribute to our ongoing fundraiser, **The Final Push for CTNNB1 Gene Therapy**.

She is also a close friend of several members of our U.S. CTNNB1 community, and we are so grateful to have her as an ally. Her advocacy reminds us that while our conditions may differ, our challenges and hopes are deeply connected.

“It’s only by standing together that we make real progress for all our children.”

Watch Carolyn’s speech for Harvard University here.



Don't forget to download the CTNNB1 app!

This app is your central hub for **connection, support, and information-sharing** within the CTNNB1 community.

Available in **English, Deutsch, Español, Français, Italiano, Português, Slovenščina,** and **Polski**.

Through the app, you can:

- Stay up to date with the latest news and research
- Discover community events and meetups
- Join support group discussions
- Access educational resources
- Connect with experts through live chat assistance

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