



KiMe Fund

www.kimecnd.org

Our mission is to find a cure for Parkinson's, by funding research.

10 July 2015

KiMe Fund Honored by Van Andel Research Institute in Michigan

On June 9th, the Van Andel Research Institute (VARI) inducted the KiMe Fund into its Institute's Leadership & Legacy Society during a formal reception in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Deanna S. Hatmaker, KiMe Advisory Board Vice Chair and Director accepted the award on behalf of the KiMe Fund and its donors. During remarks, Carol Van Andel, on behalf of the Van Andel Education Advisory Council, shared a message regarding the KiMe Fund's history and mission, and applauded KiMe's efforts in raising awareness and funding research.

In October of last year, the KiMe Fund provided seed funding to VARI to support a research project at VARI that aims to determine how mutations in a gene called *VPS35* cause inherited Parkinson's disease. Currently, very little is known about how mutations in *VPS35* cause Parkinson's. Scientists at VARI plan to generate new genetic models to define the role of mutant *VPS35* in the degeneration of dopamine-producing nerve cells, and examine the interaction between *VPS35* and the protein alpha-synuclein. Although the project's main focus is on inherited Parkinson's, the study also has implications for non-inherited forms of the disease.

The KiMe Fund is also collaborating with VARI to hold and sponsor an event later this year in Michigan, which will raise awareness, increase outreach for both KiMe and the VARI and raise funds for additional research aimed at finding a cure for Parkinson's Disease.



Pictured in the photo: David and Carol Van Andel presenting an award to Deanna S. Hatmaker, KiMe Fund Advisory Board - Vice Chair & Director, on behalf of the KiMe Fund.

The KiMe Fund is a donor advised special interest fund of the East TN Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The KiMe Fund is dedicated to funding research for neurological disorders with an initial emphasis on Parkinson's Disease.