Alfred Health Fragile X –Associated Tremor Ataxia Syndrome (FXTAS) Clinic.

We offer help in the diagnosis and management of people affected with FXTAS.

What do we do at the FXTAS clinic?

In addition to assessing and managing people with FXTAS, our clinic also has a research focus, broadly aimed at improving the assessment and management of this condition. Several research projects are currently in progress. The clinic is supported by allied health staff (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, neuropsychologists, etc). A volunteer from the Cerebellar Association (a support group that aims to assist people with ataxia through meetings, events and information) is also available during clinics.

As part of your attendance at the clinic, in addition to seeing a specialist neurologist, you may also see a physiotherapist and a speech pathologist, all of whom are experienced in helping people with the various medical issues that might be a part of FXTAS. If further ongoing services are required, we will usually support you to access services in your local community.

Location and hours.

The FXTAS clinic operates on a Friday morning from 9am to 1pm. It is recommended that you allow 3 hours for your first appointment. The clinic is located at: Caulfield Hospital, 260 Kooyong Rd, Caulfield VIC 3162

What do you need to get an appointment at the FXTAS clinic?

The first step is to obtain a referral from your GP: you will need a referral letter from your GP or other medical practitioner to access this service prior to being given an appointment. Your doctor will need to fax your referral letter to us on (03) 9076 6435, and our phone number to call in case you or your GP require further information is: (03) 9076 6800.

Following receipt of your referral, we will be in contact with you regarding an appointment date.

Interstate or rural Victorian patients and a travel partner are generally able to access financial assistance with travel and/or accommodation (patient travel assistance schemes) in your state. The application procedure differs between the states and these can be accessed by yourself/your GP accessing and completing the appropriate application.

Dr David Szmulewicz is an Australian Neurologist, Neuro-otoologist and medical researcher. He holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne and his clinical and research interests include work aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of how FXTAS may effect patients as well as future treatment options.

David is the head of the Balance Disorders & Ataxia Service at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital, founder of the Alfred Hospital Cerebellar Ataxia Clinic and Lecturer at Melbourne University. David is lead investigator on research to develop objective ataxia metrics, a project defining a new cerebellar ataxia – Cerebellar Ataxia with Neuropathy and Vestibular Areflexia Syndrome (CANVAS), as well as the development of an objective oculomotor (eye movement) test of imbalance - the video VVOR. He is co-director of The Australian Temporal Bone Bank.

David undertook his specialty cerebellar training with Prof Elsdon Storey and currently collaborates on research into FXTAS with both Prof Storey and Dr Danuta Loesch, both of whom are internationally well known FXTAS researchers.