

In December, 2007 AFTD was pleased to award a \$60,000 research grant to Professor Marc Cruts, Ph.D. from the University of Antwerp in Antwerp, Belgium. Dr. Cruts will use these funds to identify new genes in families where a genetic cause for FTD is suspected, but no mutations in the known genes (*PGRN* and *MAPT*) have been found.

Dr. Cruts's past research has identified a family in which multiple individuals suffer from FTD-ALS. Using molecular genetic mapping techniques, Dr. Cruts has found that in this family a defective gene is located in a chromosomal region not currently recognized as the location of an "FTD gene". Research will now focus on sequencing this family's DNA to identify this specific gene defect and then test this gene in a wider sample of FTD patients to determine if this gene results in the development of FTD across a broader population of families.

This award was the second \$60,000 grant given by AFTD in 2007 and was made possible through the generous contribution of a private donor. In addition to the funding of these basic research grants, in 2007 AFTD also contributed \$100,000 toward the FTD Drug Discovery Program which awarded a total of \$300,000 to scientists conducting research into finding novel targets for drug therapies for FTD.

