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## **ANIRIDIA NORTH AMERICA created as US Nonprofit Organization**

*October 1, 2021* - The recent creation of a new nonprofit organization, **Aniridia North America (ANA)**, has been announced by its founding Board of Directors. Aniridia North America is a charitable organization created to represent, serve, and support the North American community of persons affected by aniridia and their families, patient advocacy organizations, and clinicians and scientists.

ANA was created to facilitate collaboration and research on aniridia in North America and to participate more effectively in the international aniridia community.

The founding ANA Board of Directors is

- Chairperson: Peter Netland, MD, PhD, University of Virginia
- Secretary: Shari Krantz, International WAGR Syndrome Association
- Treasurer: Susan Wolfe, Vision for Tomorrow
- Chairperson, Scientific Committee: James Lauderdale, PhD, University of Georgia
- Chairperson, Meetings Committee: Robert Grainger, PhD, University of Virginia
- Chairperson, Strategic Planning and Policy Committee: Kelly Trout, BSN, RN, International WAGR Syndrome Association
- Member at Large: Janelle Collins

Netland explains, “ANA is committed to facilitating interaction and providing support among stakeholders focused on aniridia, with an inclusive approach and meaningful engagement.”

ANA will serve as an umbrella organization representing a variety of North American stakeholders:

- Persons affected by aniridia and their families
- Patient advocacy organizations
- Clinicians
- Scientists
- Students
- Educators and low vision specialists

Collins says, “As the ANA Member at Large and the parent of a child with aniridia, I’m excited about the opportunity to represent the patient community and engage with other stakeholders in this collaborative group.”

Aniridia North America was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in March 2021, registered as a charitable organization in August 2021, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit determination is pending.

For more information visit [aniridiaNA.org](https://aniridiaNA.org) or email [info@aniridiaNA.org](mailto:info@aniridiaNA.org).