



In Memory of Dr. William R. Kennedy

The Kennedy's Disease Association (KDA) honors the life and legacy of Dr. William R. Kennedy, whose groundbreaking work forever changed the lives of individuals and families affected by **spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA)**, a rare neuromuscular disease now known around the world as **Kennedy's disease**.

More than half a century ago, Dr. Kennedy brought clarity to a mysterious condition affecting one of his first patients. He identified and documented a constellation of symptoms that define the disease and concluded that it was an inherited condition caused by a recessive gene mutation. His work established the foundation for what today is a global community of medical researchers seeking to define the molecular mechanisms causing the disease and develop treatments and a cure. Dr. Kennedy's research has taken on even greater significance with recent studies that have demonstrated the prevalence of Kennedy's Disease is much greater than originally believed.

Dr. Kennedy's contributions were not simply scientific achievements. His discoveries have provided answers to families seeking understanding, hope to individuals navigating uncertainty, and direction to researchers determined to improve lives. His name became attached to the disease not as a mark of recognition alone, but as a symbol of his unwavering dedication to those he served.

I was honored to visit Dr. Kennedy and his family in St. Paul in June 2025. I was struck by his continuing interest in the disease he identified so long ago and by his humility, kindness, and compassion. From the short time I spent with them, it was clear that he passed on these traits to his wonderful and caring family.

The Kennedy's Disease Association extends our deepest gratitude for Dr. Kennedy's remarkable life, his enduring contributions, and the hope he brought to so many. We honor his memory by continuing the work he began—advancing research, supporting families, and striving to find a cure.

With the greatest respect,

Terry Thompson

Terry Thompson, PhD

President, Kennedy's Disease Association

Kennedy's Disease Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working to inform, support, educate, and fund research towards finding a cure for Kennedy's Disease.