SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A University of Notre Dame dean plans to ride his bike more than 2,000 miles this summer to celebrate a partnership between the college and the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation.

College of Science Dean Gregory Crawford and his wife, Renate, will start their “Desert to Dome” ride July 24 from Tucson, Ariz., where the foundation is located. They plan to arrive at the Notre Dame campus in South Bend in August after riding across seven states.

Notre Dame and the Parseghian Foundation are working on treatment options for Niemann-Pick Type C, a rare and deadly disease that primarily strikes children before or during adolescence.

Parseghian is a former Notre Dame football coach who lost three grandchildren to the disease.