



ALS Research Forum e-Newsletter Vol. 186

December 6, 2017

Visit the [ALS Research Forum](#) to read the complete stories featured in this e-newsletter. Friends and colleagues can sign up for the newsletter [here](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

Later this week, we will be attending the 28th International Symposium on ALS/MND in Boston, Massachusetts. Stay tuned for our meeting coverage!

Conference News

[SfN2017: ALS, Some Things Borrowed, Some Things New](#)

At the 2017 Meeting of the Society of Neuroscience in Washington, D.C., experts discussed potential treatment strategies for ALS beginning to emerge and the potential of these approaches for ALS going forward.

Research News

[In ALS, Respiratory Measure Predicts Pace of Disease](#)

A respiratory measure may help researchers track the progression of ALS according to a new retrospective analysis led by Columbia University's **Jinsy Andrews** in New York published on November 27 in *JAMA Neurology*. The emerging endpoint, known as slow vital capacity (SVC), is increasingly being used to help detect potential treatment effects in ALS clinical trials. In this feature, experts weigh in on SVC and its potential to help evaluate drugs for ALS in the clinic going forward.

[Stabilizing C9ORF72 RNA Lowers Toxicity](#)

A new treatment approach may help protect motor neurons in C9orf72 ALS, according to a new study published this week. The small molecule approach, which stabilizes C9orf72 expanded repeat RNAs, reduced RNA foci and dipeptide-repeat proteins by 50% in reprogrammed ALS patient motor neurons. The compounds, developed by University of College London's **Adrian Issacs** and colleagues in England, target one of two key structural conformations thought to be adopted by these RNAs known as a G-quadruplex (see [March 2014](#) news; [Fratta et al., 2012](#) ; [Haeusler et al., 2014](#)). The approach is one of growing number of small-molecule-based strategies that aims to reduce motor neuron toxicity in ALS (see [August 2014](#) news; [Su et al., 2014](#)). The study is published on November 7 in *EMBO Molecular Medicine*.

To learn more about C9orf72 ALS, including emerging treatments in the pipeline, check out [A New CRISPR Technique Fries C9orf72 RNAs](#).

[Rare Genetic Variants Find Common Ground in ALS; Steer Treatment Response](#)

Genetics matters in ALS. But could some of these genetic changes help scientists test drugs in the clinic? Experts weigh in.

Check out [our website](#) to read more of the latest research advances in ALS.

Funding Opportunities:

Applications are now being accepted by Fight MND for funding for the development of ALS therapies at the preclinical and Phase 1 stage. Researchers globally are invited to apply! Check out [their website](#) for details! Deadline: April 1, 2018.

December 2017

[NeuroNEXT Clinical Trials](#). NINDS. Applications due by **December 6, 2017**.

[Research Grants](#). Muscular Dystrophy Association. LOI due by **December 15, 2017**.

January 2018

NEW! [ALS ACT: Biomarker Discovery of ALS](#). ALS Association and ALS Finding A Cure. Letter of Intent due by January 8, 2018.

NEW! [ALS Research Grants](#). Thierry-Latran Foundation. Abstracts due by January 29, 2018.

[Altman Award in Developmental Neuroscience](#). Japan Neuroscience Society. Application due by January 31, 2017. Scientists worldwide are invited to apply.

February 2018

NEW! [High Impact Neuroscience Research Resource Grants](#). NINDS. Application due by February 9, 2018.

NEW! [Clinical Trial Readiness for Rare Neurological and Neuromuscular Diseases](#). Focus: Clinical Outcome Measures and Biomarkers. NINDS. Application due by February 15, 2018.

NEW! [Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship in Neuroscience](#). (For Early-Career PIs.) Applications due by February 15, 2018.

[Transformational Research: Canada 2018](#). Weston Brain Institute. Deadline extended! LOI now due by February 15, 2018.

Check out our [updated list](#) of grants and awards.

Job Opportunities:

[Chair, Neurological Sciences](#). Florida State University School of Medicine. Tallahassee, FL.

[Chair, Center of Regenerative Therapies](#). Technische Universität Dresden. Dresden, Germany.

[Chief of Staff, VA](#). University of Washington School of Medicine. Seattle, WA.

[Clinical Neuropsychologist](#). Indiana University School of Medicine. Indianapolis, IN.

[Associate Professor, Department of Neuroscience](#). University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA.

[Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences](#). University of Texas. Dallas, TX.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Knowles Lab](#). University of Cambridge. Cambridge, England.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Sareen Lab](#). Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Los Angeles, CA.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Zhang Lab](#). University of Texas-Southwestern. Dallas, TX.

[Research Associate, Lakatos Lab](#). University of Cambridge. Cambridge, England.

[Research Associate, Grinberg Lab](#). University of California. San Francisco, CA.

[Executive Director, Clinical Research, Rare and Neurological Diseases](#). Pfizer. Cambridge, MA.
[Senior Scientist](#). Evotec. Hamburg, Germany.
[Senior Scientist](#). Yumanity Therapeutics. Cambridge, MA.
[Scientist I/II, ALS](#). Biogen. Cambridge, MA.

Hiring someone onto your team? Contact us to add your listing to [our updated job board](#): ALSjobs@prize4life.org.

[Full List of Job Opportunities >>](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

December 2017

December 7, 2017. Boston, MA. [ALS/MND Allied Professionals Forum](#).

December 8-10, 2017. Boston, MA. [International Symposium on ALS/MND](#).

March 2018

March 11-14, 2018. Arlington, VA. [MDA Clinical Conference](#).

March 18-21, 2018. EMBL. Heidelberg, Germany. [Microglia 2018](#). Abstracts due: February 15, 2018.

March 22-24, 2018. Melbourne, Australia. [Australasian Motor Neurone Disease Symposium](#). Abstracts due: **December 18, 2017**.

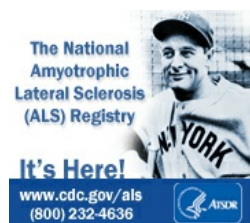
April 2018

April 17-21, 2018. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Cold Spring Harbor, NY. [Protein Homeostasis in Health and Disease](#). Abstracts due: February 2, 2018.

April 21-27, 2018. Los Angeles, CA. [Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology](#).

Organizing an ALS meeting? Contact us to add your conference to [our updated calendar](#): ALSmeetings@prize4life.org.

[Full List of Upcoming Meetings>>](#)



[Download the Working with ALS Mice Manual Here](#)

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