



ALS Research Forum e-Newsletter Vol. 199

June 20, 2018

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Research News

[Scientists Approach the T, Taking Shots At ALS](#)

Inflammation is a key hallmark of ALS that is thought to fuel the progression of the disease. A growing number of researchers are developing therapies that boost regulatory T cells in hopes to keep inflammation in check. Experts weigh in on this approach and its potential for people with ALS going forward.

Check out [this feature](#) to learn about potential treatments for ALS in the pipeline, including those being tested in the clinic.

[Dipeptide Repeats May Hobble Ribosomes in C9orf72-FTD Patient Brain](#)

Repeat expansions in the C9orf72 gene cause ALS. But why these genetic changes result in the disease remains hotly debated. Now, a research team, led by **Dieter Edbauer** at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases in Munich, reports that the dipeptide repeat proteins poly-GR and poly-PR may contribute to motor neuron toxicity by hindering the synthesis of proteins. The study is one of a growing number of studies, which suggests that the inability to produce key proteins may be a more general contributor of neurotoxicity in the disease (see [February 2017](#) news; [Coyne et al., 2014](#), [Majumder et al., 2016](#)). The study appeared on May 16 in *Life Science Alliance*.

[New Insights May Help Scientists Improve ASO Therapies for ALS](#)

Researchers may be one step closer to understanding how antisense oligonucleotide therapies target genetic changes that cause disease. The study, led by City of Hope's **Cy Aaron Stein** in Duarte, California, found that small nucleic acids including antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) are imported into the nucleus of cells by a key protein complex known as SIRC via a stress-induced mechanism. The results may help researchers develop ASO therapies for ALS which can be delivered at lower doses, potentially improving tolerability and increasing efficacy. The study appeared online on June 4 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

To find out about ASO therapies approaching the ALS clinic, check out [ALS-Targeted Antisense Oligonucleotides Make Waves at AAN 2018](#).

Clinical Trial News

[Masitinib Drug Maker AB Science Withdraws Its Appeal to EMA](#)

AB Science withdrew its appeal to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) over its decision to reject the approval of masitinib for the treatment of ALS (see [April 2018](#) news). The decision, announced by AB Science on May 28, is based in part on the inability to provide additional data during this "re-examination" procedure.

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

Funding Opportunities:

The Weston Brain Institute will [begin accepting applications](#) in August for funding for biomarkers of diseases including FTD in the UK, Ireland and in the Netherlands.

June 2018

[ALSRP Therapeutic Development Award](#). Application due by **June 22, 2018**.

[ALSRP Therapeutic Idea Award](#). Application due by **June 22, 2018**.

[Scientific Innovations Award](#). Brain Research Foundation. LOI due by **June 22, 2018**.

[Roger de Spoelberch Prize](#). Roger de Spoelberch Foundation. Focus: basic and clinical neurodegenerative disease research. Application due before **June 30, 2018**.

July 2018

[Research Grants](#). AFM-Téléthon. For ALS, priority is given to developing therapies. Researchers across the globe are invited to apply. Applications due: **July 3, 2018**.

[Research Grants \(Clinical Care and Management\)](#). Funding priorities include clinical outcome measures and telemedicine. AFM-Téléthon. Researchers across the globe are invited to apply. Applications due: **July 3, 2018**.

NEW! [TREAT ALS Research Grants](#). ALS Association. Preliminary proposal due by July 6, 2018.

[Brain Health and Cognitive Impairment Initiative](#). AHA and Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group. Application due by **July 6, 2018**.

NEW! [Accelerating Drug Discovery for FTD](#). Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation and the Association of FTD. LOI due by July 13, 2018.

[Nonclinical and Early-Phase Clinical Development for Biologics](#). NINDS. Funding focus: IND-enabling studies and phase 1 clinical trials. Application due by July 18, 2018.

August 2018

[NEW! Beckman Young Investigator Award. Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation.](#) Application due by August 6, 2018.

[Clinical Trial Readiness for Rare Neurological and Neuromuscular Diseases.](#) NINDS. Funding focus: clinical outcome measures and biomarkers. Application due by August 17, 2018.

[Postdoctoral Fellowships.](#) AFM-Téléthon. Researchers across the globe are invited to apply. Applications due: August 28, 2018.

[Clinical Research Fellowships.](#) AFM-Téléthon. Researchers across the globe are invited to apply. Applications due: August 28, 2018.

[John Templeton Foundation.](#) Funding priorities include basic and translational epigenetics/genetics research. Online inquiries must be submitted by August 31, 2018.

[Betty Laidlaw MND Research Prize.](#) MND Australia. Application due by August 31, 2018. (Funding call opens in June.)

[Research Grants.](#) MND Australia. Application due by August 31, 2018. (Funding call opens in June.)

The following awards accept applications at any time on a rolling basis.

[NEW! Clinical Neuroscience Research Grants.](#) Dana Foundation.

[Early Phase Clinical Trials: Canada. Weston Brain Institute.](#) Funding priorities include FTD.

[High Throughput Sequencing and Genotyping Resource Access.](#) NIH.

[Human Clinical Trials Grant.](#) Muscular Dystrophy Association.

[Wellcome Trust Innovator Award \(UK\).](#) Funding focus: development of diagnostics and repurposed medicines for neurological disorders including rare diseases.

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

Job Opportunities:

[Professor or Associate Professor, Neuroscience.](#) University of Warwick. Warwick, England.

[Associate Professor, Neuroscience.](#) Australian National University. Canberra, Australia.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Butovsky Lab.](#) Brigham & Women's Hospital. Boston, MA.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Patsopoulos Lab.](#) Brigham & Women's Hospital. Boston, MA.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Walker Lab.](#) University of Queensland. Brisbane, Australia.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Xu Lab.](#) University of Massachusetts Medical School. Worcester, MA.

[Postdoctoral Fellow, Yang Lab.](#) Tufts University School of Medicine. Boston, MA.

[Research Assistant, Fisher Lab.](#) MRC Harwell Institute. Harwell, England.

[Director, Research \(ALS and PD\).](#) Amgen. Cambridge, MA.

[Research Scientist, Senior Research Scientist,](#) Preval Therapeutics. New York, NY.

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:

Are you attending the 2018 meeting of the Northeast ALS (NEALS) Consortium in Florida? Abstracts are due August 3, 2018. Check the [NEALS website](#) for details.

July 2018

July 6-10, 2018. Vienna, Austria. [International Congress on Neuromuscular Diseases](#).

July 7-11, 2018. Berlin, Germany. [FENS Forum of Neuroscience](#).

July 19-23, 2018. Cold Spring Harbor, NY. [Glia In Health And Disease](#).

July 20-21, 2018. Seoul, South Korea. [International Meeting of the Pan-Asian Consortium for Treatment and Research in ALS](#).

August 2018

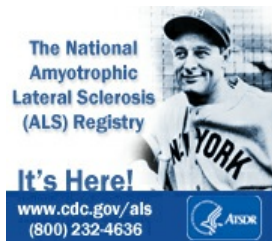
August 5-10, 2018. Castelldefels, Spain. GRC: [The Role of Innate Immunity, Glia, Neurons, and the Blood-Brain Barrier in the Pathogenesis](#). Abstracts due: **July 8, 2018**.

September 2018

September 16-19, 2018. Heidelberg, Germany. EMBL. [The Human Microbiome](#). Abstracts due by **June 24, 2018**.

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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