



ALS Research Forum e-Newsletter Vol. 203

August 22, 2018

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Research News

[Bubbling Over the Blood-Brain Barrier](#)

Exosomes are increasingly recognized as an important player in the CNS. They protect neurons and may even help axons regenerate, by transporting key substances between neurons and glia. Now, scientists are turning to these same extracellular vesicles to deliver potential therapies into the brain and spinal cord.

[A New Drug Discovery Approach May Help Tackle ALS Heterogeneity](#)

A new strategy may help researchers discover potential therapies that protect motor neurons against ALS. The high-content high-throughput screening approach, developed by Keio University School of Medicine's **Hideyuki Okano** and colleagues in Tokyo, Japan, is one of a growing number of strategies that aims to use ALS patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cells to identify existing FDA-approved medicines that can be repurposed as potential treatments for the disease (see [May 2017](#) news; [Imamura et al., 2017](#)). The study is published on August 20 in *Nature Medicine*.

[C9orf72 May Help Remove Stress Granules](#)

A reduction in C9orf72 is thought to make motor neurons more vulnerable to ALS (see [February 2018](#) news). But how the loss of function of this protein contributes to the disease remains hotly debated (see [March 2016](#) news; [Zhang et al., 2018](#)). Now, a research team led by University of Ottawa's **Derrick Gibbings** in Canada, proposes that a drop in C9orf72 might increase motor neuron toxicity in ALS by blocking the ability of stress granules to be removed by autophagy. The results add to growing evidence that restoring levels of this protein may also be needed to treat the disease. The study appeared on July 16 in *Nature Communications*.

[In C9ORF72 Expansion Carriers, Protein Levels Drop in Cerebellum](#)

Understanding the function of C9orf72 has been especially challenging, due to lack of robust antibodies commercially available for imaging purposes. Now, a research team led by **Manuela Neumann** of the German Center for Neurodegenerative

Diseases in Tübingen, Germany introduce two monoclonal antibodies specific to C9orf72. The study is published on August 3 in *Acta Neuropathologica Communications*.

Clinical News

[FDA Approves First RNAi Therapy](#)

An RNAi-based therapy has been approved for the first time in the US, paving the way for other drugs using the same technology.

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

Funding Opportunities:

Are you studying the potential role of extracellular vesicles in ALS in the US? Apply for [this NIH RFA](#). LOI due by September 23, 2018.

August 2018

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

[Betty Laidlaw MND Research Prize](#). [Research Grants](#). [Postdoctoral Research Fellowships](#). MND Australia. Application due by **August 31, 2018**.

September 2018

[MDA Venture Philanthropy Program](#). MDA. LOI due by September 1, 2018.

[Tools to Target, Identify and Characterize Non-Neuronal Cells in the Brain](#). NIH Brain Initiative. LOI due by **September 4, 2018**.

[Basic Science Pilot Grant](#). [Clinical Research Pilot Grant](#). AFTD. Application due by **September 7, 2018**.

[Research Grants](#). Cure SMA. Funding priorities include SMN regulatory mechanisms. Proposal due by **September 7, 2018**.

[Rare Diseases Clinical Research Consortia](#). NIH. Projects funded: biomarkers, outcome assessment measures and studies that inform clinical trial design. LOI due by **September 9, 2018**.

[Biomarkers Across Neurodegenerative Diseases](#). Alzheimer's Association, ARUK, Michael J. Fox Foundation, Weston Brain Institute. LOI due by **September 10, 2018**.

[Sloan Research Fellowships](#). Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Nominate an early-career scientist today! Letters of support due by September 17, 2018.

[Innovative Technologies to Deliver Genome Editing Machinery to Disease-Relevant Cells and Tissues](#). NIH. LOI due by September 18, 2018.

[Genomics of Rare Diseases](#). French Foundation for Rare Diseases. Funding focus: Next-Gen Sequencing Initiatives. Applications due by September 25, 2018.

[Pilot Projects Investigating Understudied G Protein-Coupled Receptors, Ion Channels, and Protein Kinases](#). Illuminating the Druggable Genome. NIH. LOI due by September 26, 2018.

October 2018

[Clinical Research Training Scholarship in ALS](#). ALS Association and the American Brain Foundation. Application due by October 1, 2018.

[Richard Olney Clinical Scientist Development Award](#). ALS Association and the American Brain Foundation. Application due by October 1, 2018.

NEW! [Career Awards for Medical Scientists](#). Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Application due by October 1, 2018.

NEW! [Canada Gairdner International Award](#). Gairdner Foundation. Focus: Human Biology and Disease. [Nominations](#) due by October 1, 2018.

NEW! [Research Grants](#). Basic Neuroscience. Whitehall Foundation. LOI due by October 1, 2018.

[Excellent Paper In Neuroscience Award](#). Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research. Early Career Scientists. Application due by October 1, 2018.

[Sartorius & Science Prize for Regenerative Medicine & Cell Therapy](#). Science Magazine and the Sartorius Group. Publish in *Science!* Application due by October 1, 2018.

[New Investigator Research Grant](#). Neuroscience and Mental Health. MRC. UK. Application due by October 3, 2018.

[Research Grants](#). Frick Foundation for ALS Research. Application due by October 8, 2018.

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

Job Opportunities:

[Assistant Professor](#), Brain and Cognitive Sciences. MIT. Cambridge, MA.

[Asst., Assoc. or Full Professor](#), Neuroscience. University of California. San Diego, CA.

[Asst., Assoc. or Full Professor](#), Environmental Health. Baylor College of Medicine. Houston, TX.

[Asst. or Assoc. Professor](#), Pharmaceutical Sciences. NE Ohio Medical University. Rootstown, OH.

[Assistant Professor](#), Functional Genomics. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.

[Assistant Professor](#), Genetics and Genomics. Smith College. Northampton, MA.

[Assistant Professor](#), Neurobiology. Duke University School of Medicine. Durham, NC.

[Assistant Professor](#), Neuroimmunology. Washington University School of Medicine. St. Louis, MO.

[Assistant Professor](#), Neuroscience. Barnard College. New York, NY.

[Assistant Professor](#), Neuroscience. University of Colorado. Boulder, CO.

[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Pasinetti Lab. Mount Sinai School of Medicine. New York, NY.

[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Sreedharan Lab. King's College London. London, England.

[Research Scientist](#), Cell Culture. AveXis. San Diego, CA.

[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Amgen. 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:

September 2018

September 16-19, 2018. Heidelberg, Germany. EMBL. [The Human Microbiome](#).

October 2018

October 2-4, 2018. Clearwater Beach, FL. [NEALS Annual Meeting](#).

October 23-25, 2018. Fort Worth, TX. [ALS Association Clinical Conference](#).

November 2018

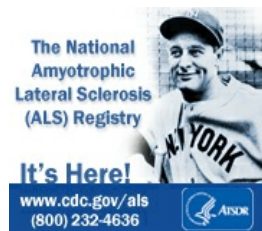
November 3-7, 2018. San Diego, CA. [RNA Metabolism In Neurological Disease](#). Abstracts due by **August 31, 2018**. Posters Only.

November 3-7, 2018. San Diego, CA. [Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting](#).

November 28-December 1, 2018. Cold Spring Harbor, NY. [Neurodegenerative Diseases, Biology and Therapeutics](#). Abstracts due by **September 14, 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](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

