



ALS Research Forum e-Newsletter Vol. 208

November 20, 2018

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.

Research News

[Mitofusin2: CASTing A Line To Protect Muscles in ALS](#)

A new strategy, targeting mitofusin2, may help keep muscles stronger longer by strengthening muscle and motor neuron connections. The approach is currently being developed as a treatment for Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease Type 2A. In this feature, experts weigh in on this approach and its potential for people with ALS going forward.

To find out about other treatments being developed for ALS that aim to stabilize neuromuscular junctions, check out [An Emerging ALS Approach Gains Strength](#).

[UNC13A: Subgrouping ALS By Genotype?](#)

A key challenge in developing therapies for ALS is the heterogeneity of the disease. To overcome this obstacle, some scientists are scouring the genomes of people with ALS to spot variants that could indicate whether they might benefit from these treatment strategies. Now, a research team led by **Corey McMillan** at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia reports that a key change in the gene UNC13A may help determine whether people with ALS also develop frontotemporal disease. About 16% of people with sporadic ALS harbor this minor allele of the UNC13A gene. The study appeared in the January 2019 issue of *Neurobiology of Aging*.

[A New Assay Helps Scientists Discover Potential Small Molecule Therapeutics for SOD1 ALS](#)

A new approach may help scientists discover potential therapies for SOD1 ALS. The fluorescent live cell-based assay, developed by University of British Columbia's **Neil Cashman** in Canada and University of Wollongong's **Justin Yerbury** in Australia, aims to identify small molecules that reduce the formation of SOD1 inclusions. The assay could be used to discover medicines in high-throughput screens that could be repurposed as potential treatments for SOD1 ALS. About 1 out of 5 inherited cases of ALS are due to mutations in the SOD1 enzyme ([Brown and Al-Chalabi, 2017](#); see also [Zou et al., 2017](#)). The study appeared on October 22 in *Scientific Reports*.

Check out [Small Molecule Keeps Mutant SOD1 Out of Trouble](#) to learn about other small molecule drugs being developed for the disease.

[Not Just Motoneurons: Sensory Neurons Suffer Effects of ALS](#)

Sensory neurons may also be targeted by ALS according to a new study of ALS model mice led by Virginia Tech's **Gregorio Valdez**. The findings build on previous studies of people with ALS which found that these neurons are also impacted by the disease. The results open up the possibility that sensory neurons, which are easier and quicker to culture than motor neurons, can also be used to discover medicines that could be repurposed for ALS. The findings appeared on November 8 in *Scientific Reports*.

[TDP-43 Joins Cell-To-Cell Propagation Gang](#)

Researchers may be one step closer to understanding how ALS spreads according to a new study led by University of Pennsylvania's **Virginia Lee** and **John Trojanowski**. The study found that injection of human FTD brain extracts containing TDP-43 into the mouse brain induced the formation and propagation of disease-linked pathologies. The results add to growing evidence that the transmission of key disease-linked proteins between neurons contributes to the progression of neurodegenerative diseases including ALS. The findings appeared on October 30 in *Nature Communications*.

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

Funding Opportunities:

Applications are now being accepted for research grants from Fight MND to support the [preclinical](#) and [clinical testing](#) of potential treatments for ALS. Researchers around the globe are encouraged to apply!

November 2018

[Clinical Scientist Development Award](#). Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Pre-Proposals due by **November 28, 2018**.

[Basic Science Postdoctoral Fellowships](#). Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration. Letter of Intent due by **November 30, 2018**.

[Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowships](#). Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration. Letter of Intent due by **November 30, 2018**.

[Global Grants for Gut Health](#). Nature Research, Yakult. Funding priorities include the gut-brain axis and the role of microbiota in human disease. Applications due by **November 30, 2018**.

December 2018

MDA [Venture Philanthropy Program](#). Muscular Dystrophy Association. Letter of Intent due by **December 1, 2018**.

[Development Grants](#). Early Career Scientists. Muscular Dystrophy Association. Letter of Intent due by **December 1, 2018**.

NEW! [Grass Fellowships](#). Grass Foundation. Early-Career Fellowships. Application due by December 5, 2018.

ALS [Research Grants](#). Thierry Latran Foundation. Abstracts due by December 6, 2018.

[McKnight Technological Innovations in Neuroscience](#). Letter of Intent due by December 10, 2018.

[Edward Scolnick Prize in Neuroscience](#). McGovern Institute for Brain Research. MIT. Nominations due by December 15, 2018.

[Neuroscience Prize](#). Gruber Foundation. Nominations due by December 15, 2018.

January 2019

NEW! [Clinical Trial Readiness for Rare Diseases, Disorders, and Syndromes](#). National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Application due by January 7, 2019.

NEW! [McKnight Scholar Awards in Neuroscience](#). McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience. Application due by January 7, 2019.

NEW! [Frank/Fay Seed Grant Program](#). Brain Research Foundation. Letter of Intent due by January 8, 2019.

NEW! [Research Grants](#). Basic Neuroscience. Whitehall Foundation. Letter of Intent due by January 15, 2019.

NEW! [Warren Alpert Scholars - Fellowship Award](#). Warren Alpert Foundation. Application due by January 15, 2019.

NEW! [Drug Development Grants](#). Preclinical and Phase 1 ALS Clinical Trials. Fight MND. Letter of Intent due by January 19, 2019.

NEW! [Clinical Trial Grants](#). Phase 2 and 3 ALS Clinical Trials. Fight MND. Letter of Intent due by January 19, 2019.

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

Job Opportunities:

Looking to start your own lab? Check out [our job board](#). Multiple faculty positions posted earlier this fall are still accepting applications!

[Director](#), Tanz Centre, Neurodegenerative Diseases. University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada.
[Faculty \(Open Rank\)](#), Neurobiology of Disease. Weill-Cornell Medical College. New York, NY.
[Faculty \(Open Rank\)](#), Neuroscience. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY.
[Full Professor](#), Neuroimmunology and Neurobiology of Disease. University of CA. Irvine, CA.
[Assistant or Associate Professor](#), Neuroscience. Case Western Reserve U. Cleveland, OH.
[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Maragakis Lab. Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD.
[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Pulst and Scholes Labs. University of Utah. Salt Lake City, UT.
[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Schmidt Lab. Rockefeller University. New York, NY.
[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Pierchala Lab. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.
[Graduate Studentship](#), Sternecker Lab. TU Dresden. Dresden, Germany.

[Associate Director](#), R&D. AveXis. San Diego, CA.
[Scientist](#), Voyager Therapeutics. 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:

There is still time to send in your abstract for the upcoming [Gordon Research Seminar on Glial Biology](#) in February 2019 in Ventura, California. The deadline to be considered for giving a talk at the meeting is December 2, 2018.

November 2018

November 28-December 1, 2018. Cold Spring Harbor, NY. [Neurodegenerative Diseases, Biology and Therapeutics](#).

December 2018

December 2-4, 2018. Los Angeles, CA. [Translation of Stem Cells To The Clinic, Challenges and](#)

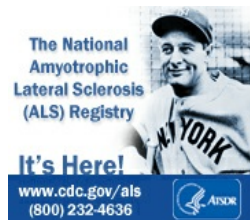
[Opportunities.](#)

December 6, 2018. Glasgow, Scotland. [ALS/MND Allied Professionals Forum.](#)

December 7-9, 2018. Glasgow, Scotland. [International Symposia on ALS/MND.](#)

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

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



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

STAY CONNECTED:

