



ALS Research Forum e-Newsletter Vol. 210

December 19, 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

[ALS: PARP Diem?](#)

Overactivation of poly(ADP)ribose polymerases (PARPs) may contribute to motor neuron toxicity in ALS according to studies led by University of Pennsylvania's **Nancy Bonini** and **James Shorter** in Philadelphia. In this feature, experts weigh in on the role of PARPs in ALS and the potential of cancer drugs targeting these enzymes to treat the disease.

[Multiple Therapies May Be Needed To Treat ALS](#)

Protecting nerve terminals may not be enough to treat ALS according to a new study. The report, led by **Amy Easton** at Genentech in San Francisco, California, found that treatment of ALS model mice with a MuSK-activating antibody preserved neuromuscular synapses - at least in the diaphragm. No improvement in respiratory function or survival benefit, however, could be detected. The study appeared on December 4 in *Neurobiology of Disease*.

[Could an Aspirin a Day Keep Multiple Sclerosis at Bay?](#)

A growing number of scientists are developing therapies for ALS that aim to protect motor neurons by increasing levels of effector regulatory T cells (FOXP3+ Tregs) and/or strengthening their ability to keep inflammation in check. Now, a research team led by Rush University's **Kalipada Pahan** in Chicago, reports that low-dose aspirin therapy reduced key symptoms of multiple sclerosis by protecting effector Tregs - at least in model mice. Experts weigh in on this approach and its potential for treating ALS going forward.

To find out about strategies scientists are developing to boost regulatory T cells in ALS, check out [Scientists Approach the T, Taking Shots At ALS](#).

[FUS: A Poison in The Ribosomal Well In ALS?](#)

RNA-binding proteins accumulate in the cytoplasm of motor neurons in ALS potentially contributing to motor neuron toxicity. But why this buildup contributes to the disease remains hotly debated. Now, a research team led by University of Kentucky's **Haining Zhu** reports that ALS/FTD-linked mutant FUS blocks the production of proteins by about 30% - at least in skin cells derived from people with the disease. The results add to growing evidence that ALS-linked proteins including FUS may contribute to motor neuron toxicity by blocking the synthesis of essential proteins. The findings appeared on November 19 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

[Neurofilament Light: A Universal Mark of Neurodegeneration](#)

Could an emerging test help detect and monitor cognitive decline in neurodegenerative diseases? A study published on December 3 in *JAMA Neurology* suggests that its a possibility.

Conference News

[11th ICFTD Meeting in Sydney Sorts Out Clinical Subtypes](#)
[Natural History Studies Provide Foundation for FTD Research](#)
[Tracking Onset and Progression of Frontotemporal Dementia](#)
[A Proteomics Dive into Cause of Frontotemporal Dementia](#)

Missed the International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias (ICFTD) in Sydney, Australia last month? Check out this 4-part wrap-up.

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

Funding Opportunities:

Are you developing strategies to reduce heterogeneity of ALS for drug testing purposes? Check out this upcoming [funding opportunity](#) from JPND.

January 2019

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

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

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

[Postdoctoral Fellowships](#). New York Stem Cell Foundation. Application due by January 9, 2019.

NEW! [Clinical Research Training Fellowships](#). MND Association. MRC. Application due by January 10, 2019. Learn more about these fellowships by checking out the [MRC website](#).

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

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

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

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

February 2019

[Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship Awards in Neuroscience](#). Application due by February 15, 2019.

[Clinical Trial Readiness for Rare Neurological and Neuromuscular Diseases](#). National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Application due by February 18, 2019.

[Neuroscience Investigator Awards](#). New York Stem Cell Foundation. Application due by February 21, 2019.

[Stem Cell Investigator Awards](#). New York Stem Cell Foundation. Application due by February 21, 2019.

March 2019

NEW! [ALS Research Program Therapeutic Development Award](#). US Department of Defense CDMRP. Pre-Proposal due by March 22, 2019.

NEW! [ALS Research Program Therapeutic Idea Award](#). US Department of Defense CDMRP. Pre-Proposal due by March 22, 2019.

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

Job Opportunities:

[Assistant or Associate Professor](#), Rutgers Institute for Neurological Therapeutics. Piscataway, NJ.
[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Mentis and Shneider Labs. Columbia University. New York, NY.
[Postdoctoral Fellow](#), Xia Lab. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL.

[Vice President](#), Biology. Cytokinetics. San Francisco, CA.
[Research Scientist](#), CRISPR/Stem Cells. Novartis. Cambridge, MA.
[Senior Associate Scientist](#). 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:

March 2018

March 3-7, 2019. Breckenridge, CO. Keystone Symposium: [Phenotypic Drug Discovery: Recent Advances and Insights from Chemical and Systems Biology](#).

March 3-8, 2019. Ventura, CA. Gordon Research Conference: [The Impact of Glial Cell Diversity on Health and Disease](#).

March 17-19, 2019. Long Beach, CA. [Drug Discovery for Neurodegeneration Conference](#).

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:

