

## EAT MORE

The purpose of the research study is to study the effects of nutritional counseling on patients with Neurodegenerative Diseases such as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease (PD) and Huntington's Disease (HD). Participants will be asked to fill out food frequency diaries and other questionnaires at regular intervals over about 7 months. Participants may also meet with a Registered Dietitian during the study. From this study, the researchers hope to learn more about how to treat these diseases. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

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## Retigabine

This study is recruiting adults with ALS to receive study drug or placebo (contains no active medication) and undergo several study procedures. The purpose of the research study is to determine whether the drug Retigabine will lower motor neuron activity in people with ALS. This study will also determine whether Retigabine is tolerable and safe for patients with ALS. Participants with ALS will take study drug for a total of 10 weeks. While taking the study drug, participants will be asked to complete several tests and questionnaires. From this study, the researchers hope to learn more about ALS and its treatment. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. Participants should be located close to the study site and be able to follow study tasks.

Principal Investigator: Sabrina Paganoni, MD, PhD

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# NCRI

## Interventional Studies Currently Recruiting

For more information about any of these trials,  
please contact the listed study coordinator or  
one of our research nurses:

*Judi Carey, R.N., (617) 724-8995*

*Sarah Luppino, R.N., (617) 724-3380*

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*For more information, visit:*

<http://www.massgeneral.org/als/>

<http://www.alsconsortium.org>

*Updated: 7/10/17*

## Ibudilast

This study is recruiting participants with the following criteria:

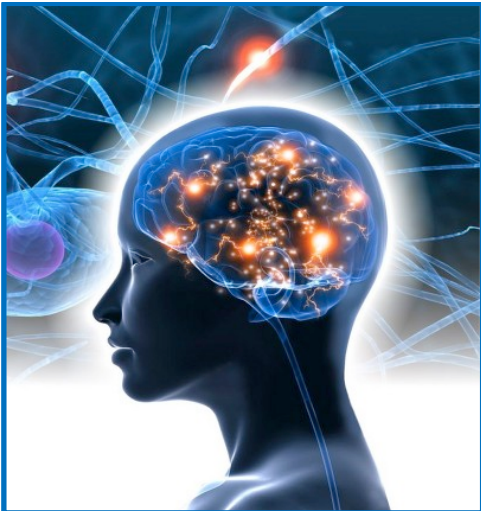
- 1) Adults with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) to receive study drug and undergo several study procedures
- 2) Adults willing to undergo MRI/PET scans at two time points to look at inflammation in the brain. These participants should have no metal or electrically powered implants in their body, and should be able to lay flat for at least 90 minutes.

The purpose of the research study is to determine whether the drug MN-166 (Ibudilast) is safe and tolerable for patients with ALS. This study will also examine whether MN-166 changes blood and brain biomarkers of inflammation in ALS. Participation in the study will last for approximately 40 weeks and will require 6 in-person visits, and 8 telephonic follow-up visits.

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## Genentech

The purpose of the research study is to determine whether the drug GDC-0134 is safe and tolerable for patients with ALS. This study will also look at the amount of study drug in your blood after different doses are taken. Participation in this study will last approximately three to five months. Participants may have the opportunity to participate in more than one dosing period. Each dosing period will require one four-night stay in the hospital during GDC-0134 dosing, and a follow up visit at one week and two weeks post-dosing. Participants must be at least 18 years of age, and able to comply with study procedures. We will review a complete list of the study's inclusion and exclusion criteria with you during a screening visit, to ensure it will be safe for you to enroll.

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## Biogen SOD1

We are doing this research study to find out about the safety and tolerability of the study drug BIIB067. This study is recruiting SOD1-ALS patients with a forced vital capacity greater than or equal to 50% of predicted value. Participation will last for approximately 31 weeks and will include an overnight stay at MGH in addition to in-person visits. There are additional inclusion/exclusion criteria that the study team will review with you in more detail if you are interested in participating.

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## Centaur

This research study is being done to find out if AMX0035 can help with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). We also want to find out if AMX 0035 is safe to take without causing too many side effects.

AMX0035, a combination of Phenylbutyrate (PB) and Tauroursodeoxycholic Acid (TUDCA), is not approved by the US Food and Drug Association (FDA). This means that AMX0035 can only be used in research studies. This is the first use of the combination drug AMX0035 in humans. However, the individual components of the drug, PB and TUDCA, have been studied in small clinical trials of patients with ALS.

This research study will compare AMX0035 to placebo. Participants will receive study drug for a total of 24 weeks, followed by a telephone call about 30 days from the final study visit. During this time, we will ask participants to make up to seven study visits to the clinic and four telephone calls. Overall participants may be in the research study for about 8 months.

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## Cross-Sectional Analysis of Biofluid Biomarkers (CABB)

+Healthy Volunteers

The main purpose of this study is to collect blood from people with ALS and related motor neuron diseases (MND) and those without ALS or MND (controls). These samples are used to understand and develop new therapies for ALS and will be shared with researchers across the globe performing promising research. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. The study only requires one-in person visit during which medical history and clinical information will be gathered and blood will be drawn. Urine collection and cerebrospinal fluid collection via spinal tap are optional. People with ALS may also participate in follow-up visits 6 and 12 months later, which may be done in-person, over telephone or by collecting information from medical records.

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## Speech Motor Impairment in ALS

The Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab at MGH Institute of Health Professions is interested in studying the movements the face and mouth during speech, chewing and swallowing in person's diagnosed with ALS. You will be asked to fill out a health questionnaire as well as to repeat various sounds and sentences while the movements of your face and mouth are recorded. This research aims to help improve the diagnosis and treatments of ALS, and to help develop new technologies that will help improve communication for people with speech impairments.

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## Answer ALS

+Healthy Volunteers

Answer ALS is a research study that is helping to create the largest-ever collection of stem cell lines derived from the blood of people with ALS. The collection of cells will be linked to detailed clinical information and a repository of biospecimens. The cell lines and clinical data will be studied in laboratories from across the country that have partnered for this project. Data from these labs will be analyzed individually and together using "big data" analysis techniques to demonstrate why and how motor neurons are affected by ALS, to identify biologically unique subgroups of people with ALS, and to search for new targets for drug therapy.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age, and able to follow study tasks. Participants will be asked to come to MGH approximately every 3 months for 1 year, and will be followed by telephone thereafter for as long as they are willing.

Principal Investigator: James Berry, MD, MPH

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For more information about any of these trials, please contact the listed study coordinator or one of our research nurses:

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*Updated: 7/10/17*



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## Biofluid Biomarker & Observational Studies Currently Recruiting

*For more information, visit:*

<http://www.massgeneral.org/als/>

<http://www.alsconsortium.org>

## Smartphone App for ALS

This study is recruiting adults with ALS who are smartphone users and are able to download and use a smartphone application. The study asks each participant to use the smartphone application for a few minutes every day by answering a questionnaire/survey, recording your voice and/or performing an on-screen exercise. The purpose of the research study is to determine how helpful a smartphone application would be in collecting research data and to learn more about disease progression.

Individuals will be in the study for about 3 months and will have the option to extend their participation by another 3 months. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

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## Natural History of C9ORF72

This research is being done to define the natural history of the C9orf72 gene mutation in ALS. Natural history means that we will study the natural course of ALS disease progression in people who have a positive C9orf72 mutation. In this study we will collect blood and optional cerebrospinal (CSF) fluid. The information we get from these samples will help us learn more about the C9orf72 mutation.

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## Skin Biopsy/Stem Cells for Research in MND

*+Healthy Volunteers*

Neurodegenerative diseases are diseases in which nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord die. There is a need to understand the cause of these diseases and to develop treatments. Recent advancements in stem cell technology have allowed us to create a person's own nerve cells by taking a skin biopsy or blood sample. This study wants to use this new technology to make models for neurodegenerative diseases. We hope this will give us a better understanding of the diseases, enable us to use the cells for drug screening, and in the future, develop treatments.

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## Microbiome Assessment in People with ALS

*+Healthy Volunteers*

The purpose of the research study is to collect stool samples from people with ALS and healthy volunteers. Through comparison of these samples, the researchers hope to learn more about the microbiome (i.e. bacterial strains) in the stool of patients with ALS, as well as find unique biological markers, which could be used to develop new therapies. The stool sample collection will be done at home; you do not need to visit MGH to enroll in this study. You must be at least 18 years of age, answer brief questions about your medical and family history, and give a stool sample. All eligible subjects will provide clinical information and participate in a one-time stool collection. Subjects may enroll in-person at MGH or via phone consent. Stool collection occurs at home. ALS subjects will have the option to participate in up to 2 additional brief visits collecting only clinical information, 3 months and 6 months after the first visit.

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## Neuroinflammation (PBR28) Imaging Study

This study is being conducted to learn more about inflammation in the brain of people with ALS and PLS. Our study will examine whether particular cells called microglia are hyperactive in the nervous system of people with ALS or PLS using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET). This information could help improve the diagnosis and development of treatments for other patients with ALS or PLS in the future.

Study participation involves up to six hospital visits over the course of 24 months, plus brief phone calls every three months for up to 48 months after enrollment. Procedures include a combined MRI/PET scan, clinical measures such as breathing tests, and questionnaires. Participants will be reimbursed for parking and receive compensation of \$150 for completing the baseline MRI/PET scan. Participants may elect to complete four additional scans, compensated at \$150 each, during their follow up visits at the hospital.

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*Updated 7/12/2017*

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## Imaging Biomarker Studies Currently Recruiting

*For more information visit:*

<http://www.massgeneral.org/als/>

<http://www.alsconsortium.org>

## SPINE-ALS

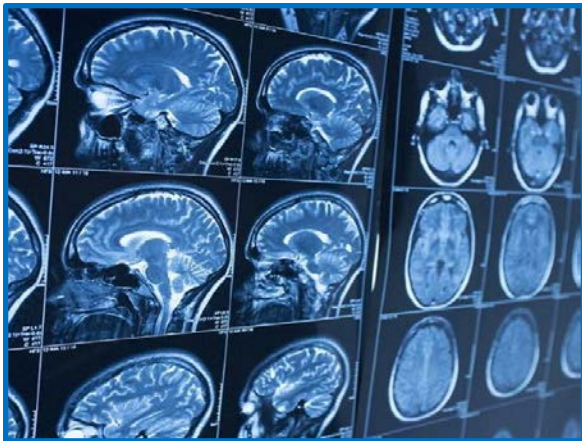
We are doing this research to learn more about changes in the spinal cord and brain in ALS. “Microglia” are a type of immune cell that we are particularly interested in. We would like to find out if microglia are activated in the spinal cord and brain of individuals with ALS. Special imaging techniques are now available to test for changes in microglia. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) are two tests that allow us to take pictures and “look inside” the body without surgery. MR-PET scanners use both MRI and PET tests at the same time. The MR-PET scanner may give clearer images and more information about the inside of the body.

If you choose to take part in this study you may have 2 visits at MGH, up to 3 months apart. We will pay you \$150 for completion of the spinal cord MR-PET scan. If you choose to participate in the optional brain MR-PET scan you will be paid an additional \$50 for completion.

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## TRACK-ALS

+Healthy Volunteers

TRACK-ALS is a multicenter, longitudinal study which aims to identify imaging and biofluid biomarkers in people with ALS to expand the understanding of disease pathology and progression. By identifying changes that occur in the blood, brain, and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of individuals with ALS, this pilot project has the potential to inform both diagnostic measures and drug development. Participation in the study for those with ALS involves approximately six onsite visits to MGH every three months for up to 18 months. Healthy volunteers are asked to make up to two onsite visits to MGH over the course of approximately two months. At these visits, participants will undergo an MRI scan to enable researchers to look at structural changes in the brain. Participants will also have blood drawn for analysis of inflammatory markers and generation of stem cells for further research. Other outcome assessments for ALS participants include breathing tests, muscle tests, and questionnaires, as well as an optional lumbar puncture to enable researchers to analyze biomarkers in the CSF. Finally, a subset of participants will undergo PET scans, which allow researchers to identify regions of inflammation in the brain.

Participants must be between the ages of 18 and 80, be medically safe to undergo an MRI scan (i.e., no metallic particles in the body), and be able to safely lie flat for at least 90 minutes.

Additionally, participants cannot be taking any immunosuppressive medications or have a diaphragm pacing system and cannot have a diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, unstable psychiatric disease, cognitive impairment, or renal failure.

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## Epigenetic (*Martinostat*) Imaging Study

The purpose of this research study is to determine whether there are differences between people with and without ALS in brain HDAC activity (an enzyme involved in DNA regulation). Participation in this study will involve up to 2 visits (a screening and imaging session). The MR-PET scan is compensated at \$150 and parking fees are waived.

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## GE-179

+Healthy Volunteers

This study is recruiting participants with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), as well as people without a history of neurological disease, using MRI and PET scans to look at the brain activity of certain receptors involved in neurotransmission. Criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Age 30 – 80
- 2) No electrically powered devices in their body
- 3) Able to lie flat comfortably for at least 90 minutes

The purpose of this research study is to determine whether there are differences between people with and without ALS in brain NMDA receptor activity (a channel present in nerve cells of brain and spinal cord that regulates neurotransmission). Participation in this study will involve up to 3 visits (a screening and one to two imaging sessions). The MRI and PET scans are compensated at \$100 each and parking fees are waived.

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