Mass General Brigham

Healey & AMG Center
Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS
at Massachusetts General Hospital

Updated June 2025

Currently Enrolling Biofluid Biomarker Studies

Study of ASSESS ALL ALS

Full Study Name: ASSESS ALL ALS – Longitudinal Biomarker Study for Symptomatic ALS and Healthy Control Participants

Study Length: up to 2 years (7 in-person or remote visits)

Participants: People with ALS and healthy volunteers

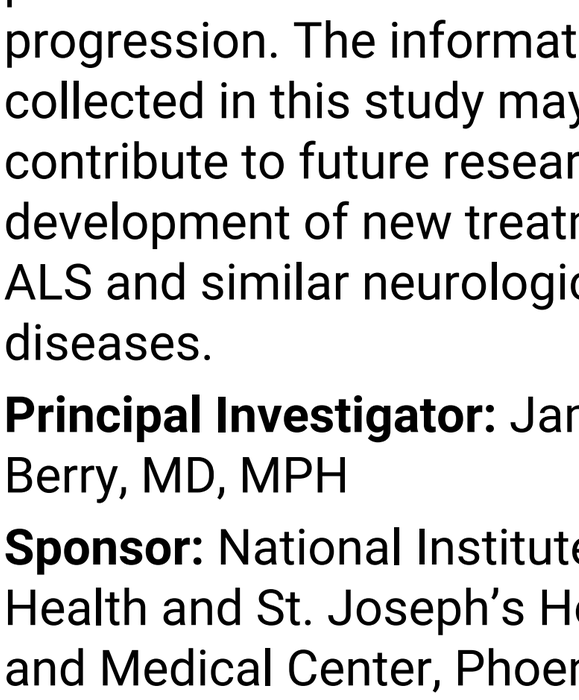
Biomarkers: Blood

Purpose: To study people diagnosed with ALS and healthy participants to further our understanding of the disease and potential biomarkers of disease progression. The information collected in this study may contribute to future research and development of new treatments for ALS and similar neurological diseases.

Principal Investigator: James Berry, MD, MPH

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health and St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ

Enrollment Contacts:
mghassessallals@mgb.org
Miranda Durcan at 617-643-9550



Why are biofluid biomarker studies important for ALS Research?

Biofluid biomarkers are measurable changes in your body that can be observed in your blood, urine, and cerebral spinal fluid. These changes can indicate healthy or unhealthy processes happening in your body and may be a sign of an underlying condition or disease such as ALS.

Researchers conduct biomarker research to measure the effects of investigational drugs on people during clinical trials. Biofluid biomarkers are an integral part of this research and may:

- Lead to earlier diagnosis of ALS or other neurodegenerative diseases
- Predict and track disease progression more efficiently
- Demonstrate whether an investigational drug reaches its designated target
- Identify subsets of people who best respond to a certain investigational drug

Biofluid biomarker studies provide an opportunity for all people with ALS to participate in research and make important contributions to our scientific understanding of ALS.

Study of Target ALS

Full Study Name: Target ALS Biomarker Study: Longitudinal Biofluids, Clinical Measures, and At-Home Measures

Study Length: Up to 16 months for ALS participants, 12 months for healthy volunteers

Participants: ALS and Healthy Volunteers who are able to have lumbar punctures*

Biomarkers: Blood, spinal fluid, urine

Purpose: Build a library of samples (blood, cerebral spinal fluid, and urine) and linked medical and genetic data. Collaborating researchers will have access to this information to advance their knowledge of ALS.

Principal Investigator: James Berry, MD, MPH

Sponsor: Target ALS

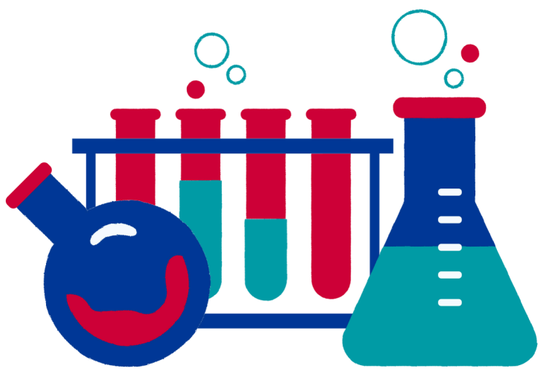
Enrollment Contact:
targetals@mgb.org

Scan to learn more about the lumbar puncture procedure.

https://shorturl.at/6exoH

Study of LABPALS

Full Study Name: A Longitudinal Analysis of Biomarkers in Patients with ALS
Study Length: up to 4 years; approximately 16 in-person visits
Participants: People with ALS, asymptomatic ALS gene carriers, people with other neurological diseases, and healthy volunteers
Biomarkers: Blood, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid
Purpose: We would like to see how biomarkers and cerebrospinal fluid (optional) change over time in people with ALS. A biomarker is a molecule that we can measure to diagnose or monitor a disease.
Principal Investigator: James Berry, MD, MPH
Sponsor: ALS Finding a Cure
Enrollment Contacts:
mgb_labpals_study@mgb.org
Carolyn Dwyer 617-724-7928



Study of PREVENT ALL ALS

Full Study Name: PREVENT ALL ALS – Longitudinal Biomarker Study for Participants Who Are At Risk for ALS

Study Length: up to 3 years (6 remote visits/3 yearly in-person visits)

Participants: People who are asymptomatic ALS gene carriers or have a family history of ALS

Biomarkers: Blood and optional cerebrospinal fluid collection
Purpose: To study people at risk for developing ALS and broaden our understanding of causes of underlying early disease changes. The information collected in this study may result in the development of treatments that target the earliest changes in ALS and lead to possible disease prevention.

Principal Investigator: James Berry, MD, MPH

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health and St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ

Enrollment Contacts:
mghpreventallals@mgb.org
Courtney Uek at 617-724-0783

Study of Longitudinal Microbiome in ALS

Enroll and participate from your home!

Full Study Name: Longitudinal Assessment of the Gut Microbiome in People with ALS
Study Length: Up to 5 years
Participants: People with ALS, asymptomatic ALS gene carriers, healthy volunteers
Biomarkers: Stool and blood samples
Purpose: Collect and analyze stool samples and observe the relationship between the gut microbiome and the progression of ALS over time. Information collected in this study will enhance our understanding of ALS and contribute towards the development of new treatments.
Principal Investigator: James Berry, MD, MPH
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health and Brigham and Women's Hospital
Enrollment Contact:
mgh-als-microbiome@mgb.org
Carolyn Dwyer at 617-724-7928
Mia Fleischer at 617-724-5659

Stay Connected to ALS Research at the Healey Center

Sign up for the MGH ALS Link to Stay Connected to Research:

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/saTzwIp/ALSLink

For more information:
Contact the research coordinator(s) listed for studies you are interested in OR Judi Carey or Michelle Redenz, Research Access Nurses, mghalsresearch@mgh.harvard.edu or 617-724-8995

Register for Healey Community Webinars for Updates:

https://partners.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JW9rQBhTRFW5uoUIDtJguw#/registration