

Updated June 2025

Currently Enrolling Digital Observation & Biomarker Studies

Why are digital biomarker studies important for ALS Research?

Digital biomarkers are helping us revolutionize ALS research by changing the way we gather and analyze data. By utilizing tools like wearable technology and smartphone applications, we are finding new and more accurate ways to understand and assess ALS symptoms. In the future, these new tools can be used to not only improve patient care, but also make clinical drug trials more accurate and efficient.



Respiratory Comorbidity Detection Using Digital Devices (Empatica)

Study Length: 18 Months

Participants: People living with ALS who qualify for breathing support and use assistive devices for mobility. We are also looking for volunteers who have not been diagnosed with ALS or have a relative with confirmed genetic ALS.

Purpose of Study: We aim to improve monitoring of respiratory complications like pneumonia, pulmonary embolisms or deep vein thromboses in people living with ALS using smartwatch sensors (Empatica device). The study could help develop better detection and treatment methods for these respiratory complications related to ALS.

Study Assessments: Participants will have visits every three months for a total of seven in person visits. At the visits, participants will undergo imaging, blood tests, ALS clinical exams, and symptom surveys.

Principal Investigator: James Berry MD, MPH

Enrollment Contact:

Sravan Mandepudi,
smandepudi@mgh.harvard.edu,
617-643-6036

or ALSdigitalstudies@mgb.org

Study of Speech, Social Connectedness, and Well-Being Outcomes in ALS

Study Length: 7 months

Participants: People with ALS

Purpose of Study: To understand the impact of ALS and associated speech impairments on social connectedness and quality of life.

Study Assessments: The study asks each participant to use a smartphone for a few minutes a day and to complete surveys, and record your voice at two time points about 6 months apart. You will also meet with a researcher over video two times to complete surveys; and mobility, cognitive, and speech tasks. The smartphone will collect passive data for the first and last month of the study.

Principal Investigator: Kathryn Connaghan, PhD

Enrollment Contact:

ALSdigitalstudies@mgb.org or
Sravan Mandepudi,
smandepudi@mgh.harvard.edu,
617-643-6036

For more information:

Email ALSdigitalstudies@mgb.org
OR Judi Carey or Michelle Redenz,
Research Access Nurses,
mghalsresearch@mgh.harvard.edu
or 617-724-8995

Study of NeuroBooth

In-person on Wang 8!



Sponsor: Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, National Institutes of Health

Full Study Name: Neurobooth: Creating new technologies to diagnose & measure neurological diseases

Study Length: 40 minutes with follow ups every 3 months

Participants: People with ALS and healthy controls

Purpose of Study: To create new digital tools to measure speech, movement, and cognition in people with and without neurological diseases. Our goal is to improve the accuracy of diagnosis and the ability to discover effective treatments.

Study Assessments: You will be guided through a 40-minute assessment inside of the Neurobooth that will measure your motor skills, eye movements, speech, and thinking. During this time, you will complete tasks on a computer, record your movements and speech with cameras and a microphone, and wear sensors on your body. We may ask you to repeat these tasks when you return for your regular clinic appointments for up to 3 years.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Anoopum Gupta, M.D., Ph.D.

Contact Information:

neurobooth@mgh.harvard.edu, 857- 238-1520

Study of Speech Motor Impairment in ALS

Enroll and participate from your home!

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

Full Study Name: Speech motor impairments in ALS

Study Length: Up to 4 remote sessions, of up to 2.5 hours each

Participants: People with ALS
Purpose of Study: To learn more about speech symptoms experienced by people with ALS, in order to help improve the diagnosis and treatment of ALS

Study Assessments: You will be asked to fill out a health questionnaire and repeat various sounds and sentences while the movements of your face and mouth are recorded. Study sessions can be completed remotely using your own computer or device.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jordan Green, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Contact Information: Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab Staff,

speechfeedinglab@mghihp.edu,
617-724-6347

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View All ALS Clinical Research at the Healey Center:



<https://www.massgeneral.org/neurology/als/research/als-clinical-trials>