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Cure for ALS

October 27, 2011

Dear ALS Advocates and Friends,

There is so much happening in the ALS community. Each day I receive alerts of some new finding in research or a new fundraising or awareness campaign. In my world, ALS is in the news every day because I'm connected; however the general public does not see these stories and still needs to be educated on what the disease is, how it robs families, and how desperately funds are needed to stop it. In every newsletter, I challenge you to share something you read with someone else - not just those you know affected by ALS, but especially those who are not. Reaching outside of our community is the way to make the letters **A L S** as recognizable as cancer, autism, AIDS, and Alzheimer's disease.

In this newsletter you'll read about the next step in the stem cell trial at Emory University and a partnership between Clear Channel Outdoor and former Massachusetts Governor and U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci, who recently shared news of his ALS diagnosis. The ALS Association kicked off a Veteran's Day Awareness campaign with a great video that you'll want to watch.

The events listed on the right are all coming up soon, with the exception of the Punkin Chunkin, which took place last weekend. I wanted to share this with you because it is a great example of a unique fundraising opportunity. I would love to join these folks one day! I hope you will take the time to read about the Punkin Chunkin and also the upcoming events.

Lastly, I'm proud to share something that the ALS Advocacy Team of Georgia is working on. The license plate pictured below will soon be available for purchase for \$15.00. **Marty Whitcomb** of **Acapella-Design, LLC** designed it and we are



**Ride to Defeat ALS
November 5, 2011
Largo, FL**

The Ride to Defeat ALS is a one-day, fully supported cycling event. Metric Century, 25 Mile Challenge, and 5 Mile Family Fun Ride options.

[Click here](#) for information.



Jumpin 4 PALS Cajun Style Part

very excited to see these on the front of hundreds of cars in the state of Georgia. Marty lost her mother-in-law a few years ago to ALS, and she is a true champion of ALS advocacy, an integral part of everything I do for ALS, and a great friend. If you'd like to order one (or more!!) just send me a note at teamduffy@gmail.com.



Best Regards,
Karen Duffy (kd)

[Cure for ALS](#)

FDA Approves Continuation of ALS Stem Cell Trial

Emory University researchers have received approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to advance to the next phase of a landmark trial to treat patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) using human neural stem cells.

The Phase I trial, currently underway exclusively at Emory University, is designed to assess the safety of implanting neural stem cells into the spinal cord in up to 18 people with ALS and began in January 2010. The first 12 patients received neural stem cell transplants in the lumbar, or lower, region of the spinal cord. After reviewing safety data from these patients, the FDA has granted approval for the trial to advance to the final two groups of patients (three in each group), all of who will be transplanted in the cervical, or upper, region of the spinal cord.

"This represents a major accomplishment for the trial, meaning that we have achieved our stated goal of proving safety in the first 12 patients who received lumbar spinal injections," says **Jonathan Glass, MD**, Professor of Neurology, Emory School of Medicine and director of the [Emory ALS Center](#).

"Our next objective is to demonstrate that we can deliver the cells safely to the cervical spinal cord, which is particularly important because therapy in this region may help patients better maintain their ability to breathe."

Nicholas Boulis, MD, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at Emory School of Medicine, performs the surgery to implant the cells. [Read more](#)

Deaux
November 13, 2011
Slidell, LA



[Click here](#) for more information or to donate.

One Step Forward 5K Run/Walk
November 19, 2011
Marietta, GA



[Click here](#) for information.

World Series Ad Supporting ALS-TDI

Even in the midst of the World Series, Nolan Ryan, Hall of Famer and principal owner of the Texas Rangers took a moment to support ALS research at ALS TDI. Click on the link to hear his compelling message, and then share this with all of your friends and ask them to text for ALS TDI and Nolan Ryan.

[Click here](#) to view the PSA. Join us and help "achieve the ultimate strikeout" by ending ALS.

UMass/ALS Champion Fund

Bryan Goodchild
UMass Medical School Communications

Clear Channel Outdoor has joined former Massachusetts Governor and U.S. Ambassador to Canada **Paul Cellucci** in his fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's Disease. The company has donated seven highway billboards promoting the **UMass/ALS Champion Fund**, a campaign Gov. Cellucci is leading to benefit ALS research at UMass Medical School.

"We are enormously grateful to Clear Channel Outdoor for making such a generous donation to this important cause," said Gov. Cellucci during an unveiling of the billboard design at UMMS. "The research taking place at UMass is giving hope to so many people with ALS. These billboards will help spread that message of hope."

Earlier this year, Governor Cellucci announced that he had been diagnosed with ALS. He is under the care of **Robert H. Brown Jr., DPhil, MD**, chair and professor of neurology and one of the world's leading ALS researchers. Money from the UMass/ALS Champion Fund will go directly to Dr. Brown's lab.

[Read more](#)

Punkin Chunkin for ALS



[Read about this unique annual fundraiser for ALS research.](#)

ALS Veteran's Day Awareness

The **ALS Association** released a [new video](#) that raises awareness of the connection between ALS and military service. The video highlights the research which has found that our military heroes are twice as likely to develop ALS as the general public.

The video is part of a nationwide awareness campaign that The Association has launched in advance of Veterans Day on November 11. Additional videos will be released in the coming weeks and The Association will conduct other awareness and outreach activities that draw attention and support to our cause.

To learn more about our **Veterans Day Awareness** campaign, [click here](#). While you're there, visit the [Wall of Honor](#) and read the powerful stories of courage posted by veterans with ALS, their families and survivors.

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