



Positive Results for Phase 2/3 Masitinib Clinical Trial Announced

Recently, AB Science announced that the Masitinib phase 2/3 clinical trial reached its primary endpoint of ALSFRS-R in people living with ALS. Currently, the company has applied for conditional marketing approval to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in Europe and is sharing results with officials at the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) to decide next steps in the U.S. The ALS Association is encouraged by the limited results released by AB Science and looks forward to hearing more later this year. **Here** is a brief overview of the phase 2/3 Masitinib study.



Volunteers are the Heart of our Chapter

National Volunteer Week is April 23 – 29. This is a time to come together and recognize the impact volunteers have on improving our communities. We truly could not do the work we do without the help of volunteers. We are incredibly grateful to the 654 people who gave their time, their talents, and their heart to the ALS community last year.

As we celebrate, we invite you to share stories of your volunteering on social media with the hashtags #ivolunteer and #NVW. We will be joining the conversation on Facebook as we share the story of a different volunteer each day.



Mankato and Bismarck Residents Needed to Help with the Walk to Defeat ALS

We are looking for some enthusiastic people to help with our Mankato Walk to Defeat ALS on Saturday, April 29 and our Bismarck Walk to Defeat ALS on Saturday, May 6. To see the positions available at each walk, check out the **Walk to Defeat ALS volunteer interest form**.



By sharing your Saturday morning with us, not only will you receive appreciation and a volunteer t-shirt, you'll also be integral to an event that raises money for ALS research and the programs and equipment we offer free of charge to people affected by ALS.



Be a SuperHero at Our St. Paul Run

On Saturday, May 6, superheroes will descend upon Phalen Regional Park to test their speed in our 10K and 5K runs. If you have secret powers and want to use them for good, we want to hear from you. To see what help we still need, look at the **SuperHero 5K/10K Dash volunteer interest form**.

Party People Needed for the Light the Journey Gala



Do you enjoy swanky events with a purpose? Do you have experience in event planning, fundraising, or marketing? Do you have five hours a month to dedicate to a good cause? If you answered yes to all those questions please consider joining the Light the Journey Gala committee. The committee will start meeting later this month and will work together to plan, promote, and execute the gala which will happen on Saturday, October 28 at the Raddison Blu in Bloomington, MN.

Want to connect Directly with Someone? Become a Family Assistance Volunteer

Through the family assistance program, trained volunteers are paired with families affected by ALS to help with everyday tasks. With volunteer assistance, families report decreased stress and increased quality time together.

If you have some time to give and want to establish a relationship with someone with ALS, please consider joining this program. A list of our current requests, including location, frequency, and type of help requested, can be found on the **volunteer page of our website**.

For more information or to express an interest in these opportunities, please contact Laura Winterstein, volunteer manager, at 888-672-0484 or volunteercoordinator@alsmn.org.



2017 Walk to Defeat ALS Season is Here!

Spring Walks are upon us! It's time to hit the pavement and join the movement to cure ALS! Walks are a great way to honor your loved ones and support the ALS community. Our goal for the 2017 Walks is to raise over \$900,000. These dollars support research into treatments for ALS, as well as critical programs and services provided by our Chapter. Mark your calendars today, and talk to your Walk Coordinator about how YOU can make a bigger impact in the Walk to Defeat ALS!

Mankato - April 29

Bismarck - May 6

Rapid City - June 24

Questions. Contact your Walk Coordinator:

Dakota Walks: Chelsea Cronin (chelsea@alsmn.org or 605-274-0230)

Minnesota Walks: Ashley Yoder (ashley@alsmn.org or 612-455-8330)



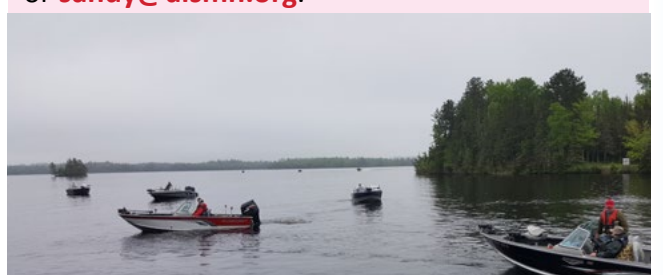
It's time to spring into action. The ALS SuperHero 5K/10K Dash is only one month away! **Register today** using code SPRING for \$10 off your registration.

Exciting new things are happening this year at the Dash! We're thrilled to announce KARE 11's Jana Shortal as our Super Emcee, and she'll be awarding prizes on our first ever SuperHero Dash costume contest!

Get those costumes ready, grab some teammates, and get started today! Questions? Contact Ashley Yoder at ashley@alsmn.org or 612.455.8330.

Cast for a Cause

The 22nd Annual Kolar Toyota ALS Walleye Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, on Island Lake, in Duluth, MN. Registration for teams is open at kolartoyotawalleye.com. Learn about our incentive prizes, Big Walleye Bonanza, Bass Challenge and so much more! We've added prize levels to the Bass Challenge, too! For more information or to answer questions, contact Sandy at 888-672-0484, 612-455-8322 or sandy@alsmn.org.



Strike Out ALS



With the Minnesota Twins season just kicking off, the strikeouts are sure to tally up quickly! Your pledge for every home game strikeout the Twins throw this season can make a significant difference. Help us reach \$10,000 in pledges, and together Carrier and the Minnesota Twins will make a generous matching gift. Join the team as we try to beat our record of over \$15,000 in pledges and \$25,000 overall. We're asking you to take the mound and help us Strike Out ALS by making a pledge today! **Click here** to make your pledge, or find out more.



New Insights into ALS FUS Mutation Disease Pathways

Mutations in the FUS gene cause familial (inherited) ALS, through unknown mechanisms. Previous research on other ALS-causing genes has shown that those mutant genes harm not only motor neurons, but other types of cells in the central nervous system. That led Dr. Erik Storkebaum of the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine in Muenster, Germany, and Drs. Luc Dupuis and Jelena Scekcic-Zahirovic, of the University of Strasbourg, France, to ask whether FUS mutations also harm cells besides motor neurons. **Continue reading** to learn more.



ATLIS Strength Testing May Shorten Clinical Trials

A new study funded by The ALS Association from Dr. Patricia Andres of Massachusetts General Hospital has shown promising results leading to potentially shorter clinical trials. The new test, called ATLIS (Accurate Test of Limb Isometric Strength), is performed in a special chair that is fitted with sensors for muscle strength. Once in the chair, the person completes the entire test without position changes, a benefit for those with ALS. **Find out more**.



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