



Research

There will be several tents dedicated to research at the ALS Walk for Life. Look for the pink balloons on Walk day and stop by this area to participate in a blood draw for research, learn about current scientific research projects or to speak with a representative from the National ALS Registry.



Blood for Research

Researchers are in need of blood samples to conduct ongoing research studies at the Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine. Specifically, samples are needed from people without a personal or family history of neurological disease, such as ALS, Parkinson disease or Alzheimer disease or other dementia. They are in particular need of samples from men because sporadic ALS affects more men than women.

The Neurologic Diseases Registry of Northwestern University's Neuromuscular Disorders Program needs samples from 2,000 people to serve as "control" samples in research studies which aim to identify genes and environmental factors that put a person at risk for developing ALS or a related disorder. DNA from these blood samples will be compared to those from patients with ALS and other neurologic disorders. The amount of blood drawn is slightly over 1 tablespoon and it should only take 10-15 minutes. People providing control blood samples will also be asked to complete a questionnaire providing information about exposure to potential environmental risk factors.

Blood samples and information collected are assigned family and individual number codes. This information is part of the Northwestern University eIRB study 12722 and will be stored in a confidential, limited access computerized data registry at the Neuromuscular Disorders Program of Northwestern University.

For more information, contact Nailah Siddique RN MSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist at 312 503 2712 or nsiddique@northwestern.edu.

Research Poster Presentations

Our scientific researchers from the Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine will be onsite the day of the ALS Walk for Life. Researchers will have poster presentations showcasing their latest projects and will be available to talk one on one about the work they are doing. Make sure to stop by this area to learn firsthand how the money you raise at the Walk directly supports their ALS research.

National ALS Registry

A representative from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the Foundation's National ALS Registry Associate will be at the ALS Walk for Life to discuss the National ALS Registry and Biorepository with event participants. Stop by to learn about the benefits of this national program and how you can get involved.