



The ALS Society of Alberta

Prairie to Peak

December 2015 ~ Volume 13 Issue 2



Historic Research Investments in Alberta

The ALS Canada Research Program has announced the final recipients of the 2015 grant competitions, which were made possible by the tremendous support during the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Albertans raised an outstanding \$2.8 million during the initiative, in which \$2 million was invested into the national research program. We are thrilled to announce that three of the 34 projects are being led by ALS researchers in Alberta.

Dr. Sanjay Kalra

Dr. Kalra, a neurologist and ALS specialist at the University of Alberta, has been awarded the Arthur J. Hudson Translational Team Grant. This \$2.94 million investment will aid Dr. Kalra's research team in the exploration of new high-powered MRI techniques that may be able to diagnose ALS earlier, monitor disease progression and determine treatment efficacy.



Dr. Lawrence Korngut

Dr. Korngut, Director of the ALS and Motor Neuron Disease Clinic, was awarded some of the first financial support for clinical trials in Calgary. He is working to establish pimozide, which is an older medication used to treat psychiatric illnesses, that has looked very promising as a treatment for ALS.

Dr. Amir Sanati Nezhad

Dr. Hezhad, Associate Professor at the University of Calgary, was awarded a Brain Canada Discovery Grant to further investigate motor neurons. This study will allow for a better understanding of ALS and potential treatments.

Board/Staff Planning Day

The ALS Society Board of Directors and the staff team from across Alberta met on October 3rd to participate in the annual planning day. The Society reinforced its mission and identified strategies to deal with the economic uncertainty to ensure it has the resources to continue to provide much needed supports and services for Albertans living with ALS.



ALS SOCIETY EVENTS

Thank you to all volunteers who fundraise on our behalf.



Wedding Donation

At Colleen and Nick's wedding in August, they generously asked for donations to the ALS Society of Alberta instead of registering for gifts. The funds were donated in honour of Colleen's dad, who passed away from ALS.

2015 Stampede Luncheon

Carswell Publishing (Thomson Reuters), raised funds for the ALS Society of Alberta through their Stampede Luncheon, in memory of Shelagh Mikulak. Shelagh's husband Murray is seen here, presenting the ALS Society with a cheque.



4th Annual Saz's Soldiers Golf Tournament

On August 14th, Derek & Tanya Sasyniuk hosted the fourth Annual Saz's Soldiers golf tournament. This tournament is held in honour of Derek, who is currently living with ALS, with the funds being split between a trust fund for their two lovely daughters, and the ALS Society of Alberta.



Phi Delta Theta Teeter Totter Marathon

On October 6th-7th, Phi Delta Theta at the University of Alberta held their annual 24-hour Teeter Totter marathon to raise funds for the ALS Society of Alberta. Despite the cooler weather, they even incorporated an Ice Bucket Challenge.

Bake Sale

Halle and Kiera held a bake sale at their school and donated the funds to ALS Alberta. They sent the following note: "In appreciation for the support you provide to families living with ALS, we hope our donation can make a difference."



100 Kids Who Care

On October 24th, the ALS Society of Alberta attended 100 Kids Who Care in Red Deer, which is a children's philanthropy event. The day was spent meeting and teaching the kids who attended about ALS, as they wanted to learn more about causes in Red Deer and what they can do to help.

The Lodge at Valley Ridge

The Lodge at Valley Ridge wishes to support Betty's Run, and sent the following note: "We have decided to support ALS because it has impacted a number of our residents and their family and friends. We are excited to be a part of Betty's Run with our residents in 2016 and will be fundraising throughout the year in expectation of contributing towards such a good cause."



Judy Schweitzer ALS Curl for a Cure Funspiel

On November 7th, Carrie Mello hosted the annual Judy Schweitzer Curl for a Cure. This event is held in honour of her mom, Judy, who passed away from ALS.

ALS SOCIETY EVENTS CONT'D

Making Memories with the Calgary Flames

Another hockey season has begun, and Mikael Backlund has again chosen the ALS Society of Alberta as his charity of choice! Mikael and his girlfriend, Frida, have generously been hosting clients and their families at Calgary Flames games each month, and everyone has such a tremendous time!

Mikael will continue to donate \$200 to the ALS Society of Alberta for each point he earns this season. We could not be more proud to have partnered with Mikael and Frida, and we wish the Calgary Flames the best of luck in the upcoming season!



Agrium - Ice, Water and Buckets!

In August 2015, Agrium employees showed their support for their colleague Erin Serack by creating 21 days of ice bucket challenges to raise awareness and support for the ALS Society. More than 150 Agrium employees took part in team challenges and individual challenges throughout the month. Not only did the Calgary office turn their parking lot into an IBC celebration but the Carseland plant employees held their own challenge. Agrium generously matched the funds raised by the employees allowing for \$69,860 to be raised to support people living with ALS in Alberta!



From left: Rose Lecky, Jan Desrosiers, Erin Serack, Karen Caughey, Susan Jones



Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking volunteers for our WALK for ALS committees across Alberta, as well as the Betty's Run for ALS committee in Calgary.

Are you interested in helping out, or getting more information?

Please email: alscommunications@alsab.ca

Condolences

Our sincerest condolences go out to the families and friends who have lost a loved one.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN ALBERTA

Researchers across Alberta are currently seeking participants for the following studies:

Clinical Trial at the University of Calgary

This study will look at whether Pimozide may help to slow the progression of ALS, and at what dose.

University of Calgary contact: jamarti@ucalgary.ca

Tirasemtiv Study (Cytokinetics)

This is a Phase 3 study, where Tirasemtiv is being investigated as a potential new therapy for the improvement of breathing, muscle weakness and muscle fatigue in patients with ALS. To be eligible for this study, ALS diagnosis has to have been with the last 24 months.

University of Alberta contact: als@ualberta.ca

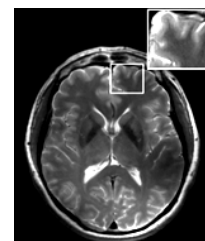
University of Calgary contact: japetril@ucalgary.ca

Brain Imaging

Advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) methods can reveal changes in the brain not visible using standard techniques. These advanced MRI methods are being developed as tests to evaluate new drugs faster, diagnose patients sooner, and improve our understanding of this complex disorder. Patients with ALS, as well as individuals without ALS over the age of 40, are eligible.

University of Alberta contact: als@ualberta.ca

University of Calgary contact: christoper.macdonald@ucalgary.ca



Canadian Neuromuscular Disease Registry

The Canadian Neuromuscular Disease Registry (CNDR) is a Canada-wide registry of people diagnosed with a neuromuscular disease. It collects important medical information from patients to improve the understanding of common and rare neuromuscular diseases and accelerate the development of new therapies.

University of Alberta contact: als@ualberta.ca

University of Calgary contact: admin@cndr.org

Cognitive Changes

Cognitive changes are sometimes present in ALS. Why some patients have changes and others don't suggests there are different types of ALS that have different causes. In this research, we evaluate the degree and type of memory, language and other abilities that can be affected and their impact on the person with ALS and their caregivers. This study is being performed at the University of Alberta only.

University of Alberta contact: als@ualberta.ca

2016 Research Forums - Save the Date!

Planning for the 3rd Annual ALS Society of Alberta Research Forum is already underway!

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

CALGARY

Saturday May 14th, 2016



EDMONTON

Sunday May 15th, 2016



ALS Canada Webinar Series

ALS Canada is hosting a complimentary webinar series aimed at discussing the ALS field of research, which will be hosted by Dr. David Taylor, Director of Research. For more information, or to register for a webinar, please visit

ALS.ca

SUPPORT GROUPS

All Support Groups and Information Sessions are provided free of charge. They are offered in casual group settings that provide everyone with an opportunity to share their experiences, information and support. Please note that the groups may be cancelled due to inclement weather - be sure to take down the contact information below.

ALS Support Group

These groups provide support to people living with ALS, their spouses, significant others, friends and families. It gives individuals the opportunity to meet others on the ALS journey, share challenges and solutions, have some fun and socialize.

ALS Family & Spousal Support Group

These warm and casual groups are for people who live with, or are currently living with someone affected by ALS.

Staying in Touch

This group was created for those who have lost someone to ALS.

PLS & Family Support Group

For people living with and affected by PLS.

Calgary

ALS Support Group

Dates: January 16

February 20

March 19

Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Place: Rotary Challenger Park,
Alberta Century Field House
3688 48 Avenue NE

Contact Jane at 403-714-8211 or email
Jane@alsab.ca for more information.

ALS Family & Spousal Support Group

Dates: January 21

February 25

March 24

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Place: 8211 Churchill Drive SW

Contact Jane at 403-714-8211 or email
Jane@alsab.ca for more information.

Staying in Touch

Dates: February 1

April 4

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Place: ALS Society Calgary Office

Contact Leslie at 403-620-1358 or email
Leslie@alsab.ca for more information.

PLS & Family Support Group

Dates: Last Monday of every Month

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Place: North Hill Mall Condo Complex
1718 14 Ave NW

Contact Leslie at 403-620-1358 or email
Leslie@alsab.ca for more information.

Edmonton

ALS Support Group

Dates: December 15

January 19

Time: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Place: ALS Society Edmonton Office
Contact Christy at 780-293-6053 or
email Christy@alsab.ca for more
information

Caregiver Coffee Group

Dates: December 15

January 19

Time: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Place: ALS Society Edmonton Office
NOTE: This group coincides with the
ALS Support Group
Contact Brandee at 780-707-0381 or
email Brandee@alsab.ca for more
information

Staying in Touch

Dates: January 15

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Place: ALS Society Edmonton Office
Contact Christy at 780-293-6053 or
email Christy@alsab.ca for more
information

Leduc

ALS Support Group

Dates: December 17

Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Place: Karunia House

Contact Brandee at 780-707-0381 or
email Brandee@alsab.ca for more
information

Lethbridge

ALS Support Group

Contact Shayla at 403-393-2663 or

Shayla@alsab.ca for more information

Red Deer

ALS Support Group

Dates: Every other month

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Place: MS Society Office

105, 4807 50 Avenue

ALS Family & Spousal Support Group

Date: Third Thursday of the month

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Place: Contact for details

Contact Carla at 403-357-4791 or email
Carla@alsab.ca for more information



The ALS Society of Alberta

"The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Alberta is dedicated to making each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness, helping find a cure and advocating for change."



PROVINCIAL OFFICE

#250, 4723 1st Street SW | Calgary, AB T2G 4Y8
Phone: (403) 228-3857 | **Toll Free:** 1 (888) 309-1111
Fax: (403) 228-7752 | **Email:** info@alsab.ca

EDMONTON OFFICE

5418 97 Street NW | Edmonton, AB T6E 5C1
Phone: (780) 487-0754 | **Toll Free:** 1 (866) 447-0754
Fax: (780) 486-3604 | **Email:** societynorth@alsab.ca

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 twitter.com/**ALS_AB**

Donation Form

I would like to join the ALS Society of Alberta's Monthly Giving Program

I authorize the ALS Society of Alberta to withdraw my monthly donation of \$ _____ from my bank account at the beginning / middle (circle) of each month. *(Please attach a blank cheque marked VOID)*

I authorize the ALS Society of Alberta to charge my monthly donation of \$ _____ to my credit card at the beginning / middle (circle) of each month. *(Fill out credit card information below)*

Date _____ Authorizing Signature _____

I am enclosing a one-time donation of (circle) \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

_____ Enclosed is a cheque payable to the ALS Society of Alberta

_____ Please charge the above amount to my credit card *(Fill out credit card information below)*

Please send my charitable tax receipt to:

Surname _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card Information

Select: Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ CVV# (3 digits on back of card) _____

Please return form to the ALS Society of Alberta Provincial Office.

Your gift will help us to make each day the best possible day for those living with and affected by ALS.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL NOT BE TRADED, SOLD OR SHARED WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE ALS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA'S PROVINCIAL OFFICE.