

The Angel Fund for ALS Research Awards Gift to Dr. James Berry and Mass General Brigham to Support Technology for Identifying Novel Biomarkers



The Angel Fund for ALS Research has generously pledged \$335,000 to the Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS to support Dr. James Berry's research into the use of a new technology platform for identifying novel biomarkers. Founded in 1988, the Angel Fund is dedicated to supporting ALS research aimed at finding the cause, treatment, and cure for the disease.

This support from the Angel Fund will enable Dr. Berry and his team to identify novel biomarkers of ALS onset in genetically at-risk participants from the Dominantly Inherited ALS (DIALS) study. Biosamples will be analyzed using the Nucleic acid-Linked Immuno-Sandwich Assay (NULISA) platform, a new technology that can detect protein biomarkers. In the future, this will facilitate trials of experimental therapies aimed at preventing ALS.

The team will use over 1,000 existing blood and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples from the DIALS study collected over the last 8 years from people at risk of carrying ALS mutations. Biomarkers identified in people genetically at-risk of ALS could be analyzed in all forms of ALS and help with early detection of the disease.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Angel Fund for supporting this critical research," says James Berry, MD, MPH, Chief of the Division of ALS and Motor Neuron Diseases at Mass General Brigham. "The NULISA platform will allow us to measure hundreds of biomarkers over time from the DIALS study with a remarkably high sensitivity. We hope to be able to expand our analyses to other studies in the future."

"We are excited to use this impactful gift to begin researching approaches to identify ALS earlier and ultimately prevent ALS," says Merit Cudkowicz, MD, MSc, Director of the Healey & AMG Center and Executive Director of the Neuroscience Institute at Mass General Brigham. "The Angel Fund has



pledged to support cutting-edge ALS research in Massachusetts, and we are honored by their contribution to the Healey & AMG Center.”

“Through our donation to Dr. Berry and the researchers at Mass General Brigham, The Angel Fund for ALS Research remains deeply committed to supporting groundbreaking science that leads to meaningful treatments – and ultimately the eradication of ALS. We proudly stand behind the scientific challenge to accelerate discoveries, advance therapies, and bring hope to patients and families affected by this devastating disease,” said Eugene Nigro, Angel Fund Founding Director.

To learn more about the Angel Fund for ALS Research, please visit their [website](#).

