

### *The Angel Fund Mission:*

Our mission is to support research and scientific investigations at the Cecil B. Day Laboratory for Neuromuscular Research by raising funds through events, campaigns, foundation grants and numerous other community outreach activities, and to aid in finding a cause, treatment and cure for ALS.

ALS has personally touched members of The Angel Fund family. They are dedicated to raising public awareness of the disease while providing compassion, understanding and hope to all those who are determined to prevail against this disease.



#### AN INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT CHARITY

The Angel Fund is a 501 (c ) (3) charity that Benefits ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Research at the Cecil B. Day Laboratory for Neuromuscular Research at UMass Medical Center in Worcester, MA

The Angel Fund  
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# The Angel Fund



*Benefiting ALS Research*

## What is ALS?

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a neurological disease the hallmark of which is the progressive degeneration of motor neurons in the brain, brain stem and the spinal cord. This disease leads to muscle paralysis while the mind is still intact. Death usually occurs within five years. There is no cure for this devastating disease.

THE ANGEL FUND

## What is The Angel Fund?

The Angel Fund is an independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable organization benefiting ALS research at the Cecil B. Day Laboratory for Neuromuscular Research at UMass Medical Center under the direction of Dr. Robert H. Brown, Jr.

The Angel Fund was founded by Ginny DelVecchio following the deaths of her mother and brother from the disease. Ginny herself was diagnosed with ALS in 1995 and lost her battle in 1998. Since Ginny's death, The Angel Fund has grown tremendously because of the generosity and hard work of so many people. Today's organization is the result of her vision and drive.

## ALS Research

Researchers continue to make exciting discoveries to better understand the disease and develop new concepts in ALS therapy. Significant breakthroughs have been made within the past few years, including the discovery of a gene defect that has been found to cause one familial form of ALS, and the discovery involving stem cells that can recreate injured or dying cells in the brain and spinal cord which may provide a route to treatment.

Recently, Dr. Brown's laboratory has focused on the identification of gene defects that elucidate the molecular pathogenesis of selected neuromuscular diseases, including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), muscular dystrophy, adrenoleukodystrophy, heredity neuropathy, and hyperkalemic periodic paralysis. Knowledge of these disease genes has facilitated the creation of mouse and cell-based models of these disorders. In turn, these resources have allowed study of therapeutic strategies using conventional small molecule approaches and new modalities such as inhibitory RNAi.

## Funding

The Angel Fund is able to provide funding to the Cecil B. Day Lab because of

the generous donations of its "family" members, the families who have been affected by ALS. Donations to The Angel Fund come from individuals, foundations, fundraising activities, as well as from donations made in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one.

Another major source of funding comes from the events that take place each year to fund research at the Cecil B. Day Laboratory at UMass Medical Center. These include road races, galas, comedy nights, soccer tournaments, golf tournaments and walks, all of which raise the money needed to help in the battle against ALS.

## How You Can Help

Individual gifts are crucial and have helped get The Angel Fund to where it is today. Every gift makes a difference and brings us one step closer to finding a cause and a cure for ALS.

You may donate online at [www.theangelfund.org](http://www.theangelfund.org) or mail a check to:  
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