

Chief Scientist
Lucie Bruijn, Ph. D.

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**The Amyotrophic
Lateral Sclerosis
Association**

Jonathan Thomas, Ph.D., J.D.,
Chair Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee

Alan Trounson, Ph.D.
President and Chief Scientific Officer
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

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Dear Dr. Thomas and Dr. Trounson,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Clive Svendsen's application DR2A-05320 "Human neural progenitors releasing GDNF for the treatment of ALS". As Chief Scientist of The ALS Association I have worked with Dr. Svendsen for the past 10 years and the Association has funded him throughout this time. His research has contributed significantly to the advances in stem cell biology not only in ALS but many other neurodegenerative diseases. Importantly for the ALS community, his research efforts have contributed to the current trial being led by Neuralstem, the first FDA approved trial in the USA. In collaboration with many of these investigators he proposes to enhance the technology and introduce neural stem cells secreting GDNF to surrounding motor neurons.

Dr. Svendsen has been a recipient of the Sheila Essey award, an award presented by the American Academy of Neurology and The ALS Association for scientists that have made important contributions to the ALS field and make a difference for patients with ALS ensuring that potential treatments are within reach. This is an extremely exciting time for the field with so many more investigators like Dr. Svendsen committed to moving therapies into the clinic. With the promise of stem cells, ALS patients are hopeful that their disease will eventually be treatable and that ultimately there will be a cure. It is critical to try many different approaches to stem cell therapies and importantly encourage well designed FDA-approved studies. I am confident that Dr. Svendsen's work has the potential of really moving the field forward especially working closely with the Neuralstem team and improving on the current trial.

The ALS Association is the only national not-for-profit voluntary health organization whose sole mission is to find a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) and improve living with ALS.

Member National Health
Council

Sincerely,



Lucie Bruijn, Ph.D.

