
CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THERAPEUTIC DEVELOPMENT FOR GENETIC ALS & ALL ALS

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Massachusetts General Hospital

Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

2023 South Florida Neuroscience

Symposium | Fort Lauderdale | June 10, 2023





AGENDA

1. Approval of the first gene targeted therapy for ALS
2. Current clinical trials for ALS
3. Healey ALS Platform Trial for all ALS
4. New era of Expanded Access Protocols (EAPs) in ALS

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST GENE TARGETED THERAPY FOR ALS

Tofersen for SOD1(+) ALS




STANDARD OF CARE TREATMENTS FOR ALL ALS

- Riluzole 9% longer survival; Early initiation and long-term treatment offers greater benefit. [1995]
- Edaravone 33% slowing [2017 IV, 2022 Oral]
- Sodium PB/TURSO 25% slowing on top of riluzole and/or edaravone [2022]
- Dextromethorphan/Quinidine –symptomatic benefit for PBA symptoms. [2010]

STANDARD OF CARE TREATMENTS FOR ALL ALS


- Dextromethorphan/Quinidine capsules – Two recent trials show benefit for bulbar symptoms

Neurotherapeutics (2017) 14:762–772
DOI 10.1007/s13311-016-0508-5


 CrossMark

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**Enhanced Bulbar Function in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis:
The Nuedexta Treatment Trial**


Richard Smith¹  • Erik Pioro² • Kathleen Myers¹ • Michael Sirdofsky³ •
Kimberly Goslin⁴ • Gregg Meekins⁵ • Hong Yu^{6,7} • James Wymer⁸ •
Merit Cudkowicz^{6,7} • Eric A. Macklin^{6,7} • David Schoenfeld^{6,7} • Gary Pattee⁹

ANNALS
of Clinical and Translational Neurology

 AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Open Access

RESEARCH ARTICLE

**Dextromethorphan/quinidine for the treatment of bulbar
impairment in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis**

Lauren Tabor Gray^{1,2,3} , Eduardo Locatelli^{2,3}, Terrie Vasilopoulos⁴, James Wymer^{1,5} &
Emily K. Plowman^{1,5,6,7}



APRIL 25, 2023

TOFERSEN FOR SOD1 POSITIVE ALS

ASO gene targeted therapy administered intrathecally (via spinal taps) and on a monthly basis, indefinitely



Healey Center

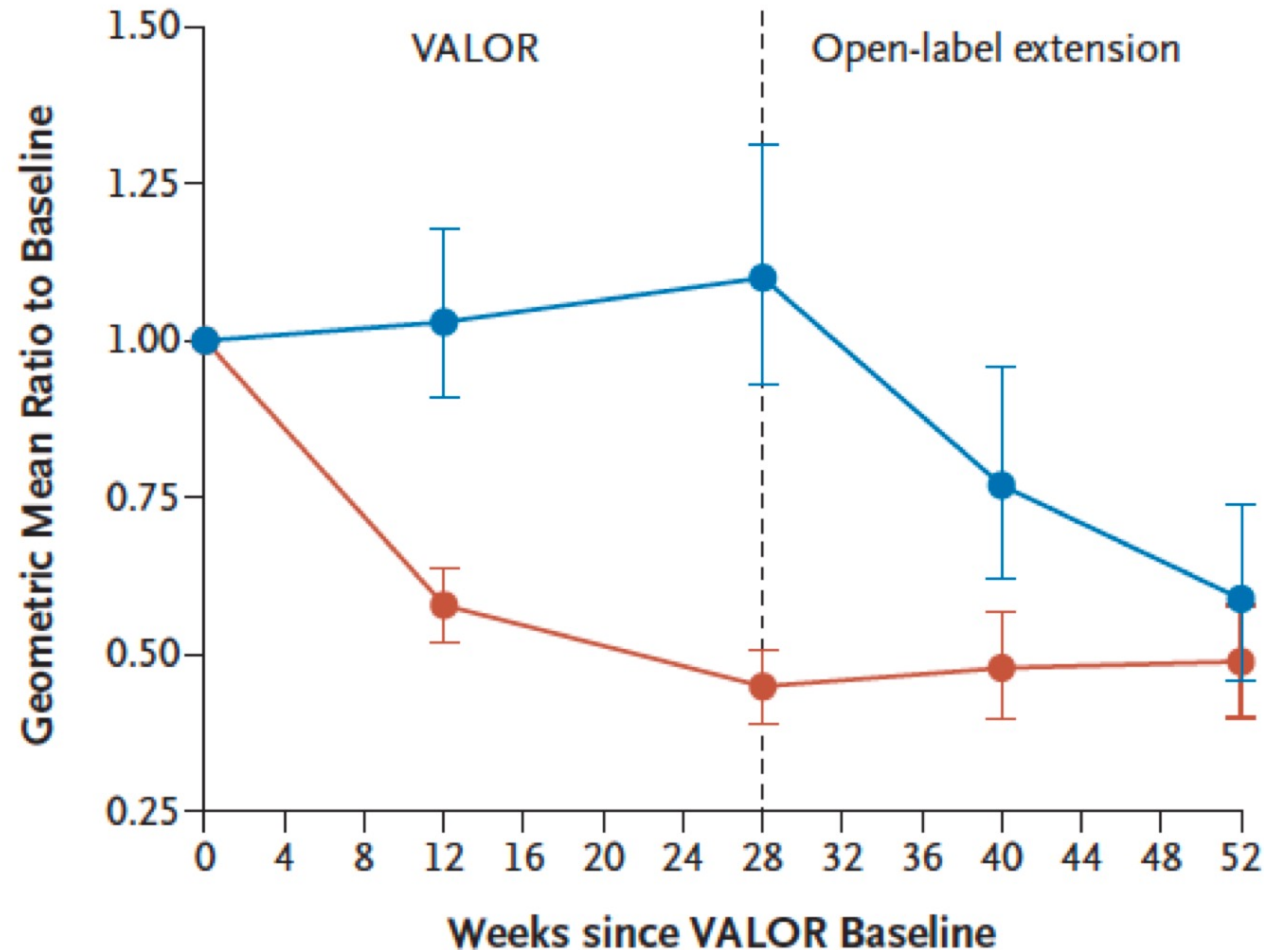
Sean M. Healey & AMG Center
for ALS at Mass General

STANDARD OF CARE FOR SOD1(+) ALS (AS OF APRIL 25, 2023)

- Riluzole 9% longer survival; Early initiation and long-term treatment offers greater benefit.
- Edaravone 33% slowing
- Sodium PB/TURSO 25% slowing on top of riluzole and/or edaravone
- Dextromethorphan/quinidine – Symptomatic benefit for PBA. One trial shows benefit for bulbar symptoms.
- Tofersen is for SOD1 genetic form of ALS only!

STUDY RESULTS LEADING TO ACCELERATED APPROVAL

B Concentration of NfL in Plasma



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

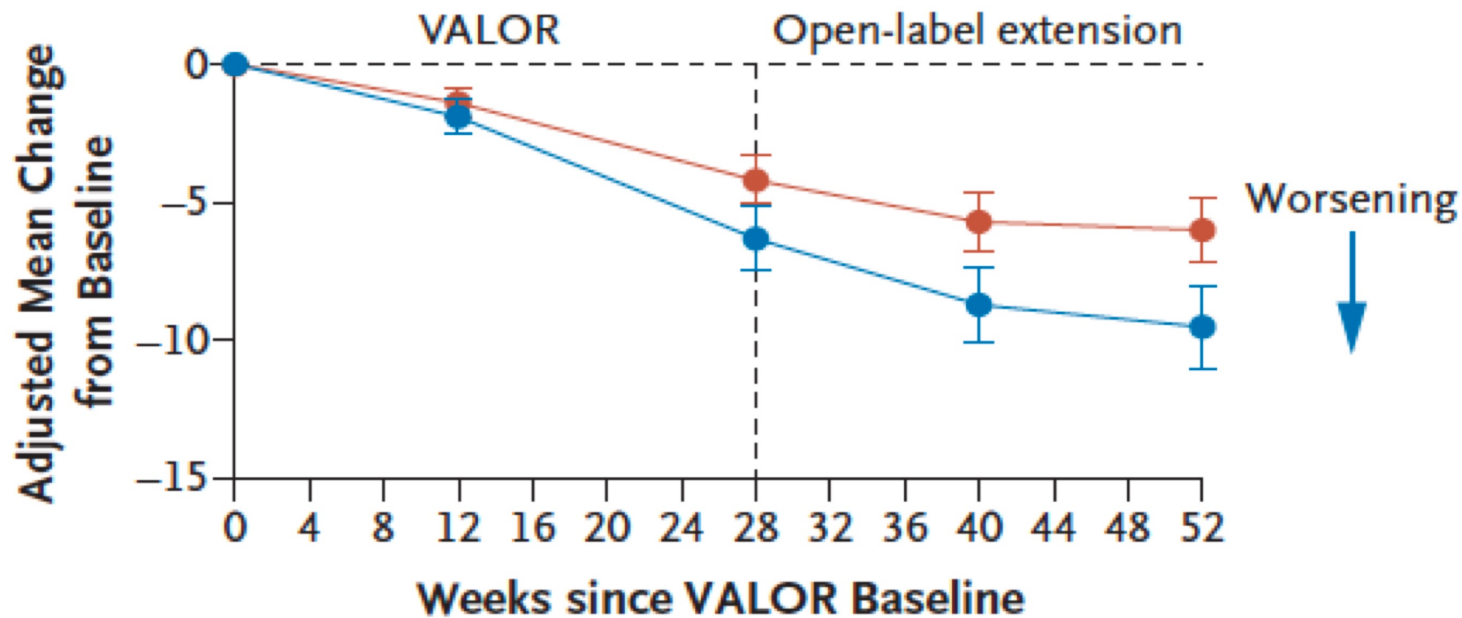
Trial of Antisense Oligonucleotide Tofersen for SOD1 ALS

T.M. Miller, M.E. Cudkowicz, A. Genge, P.J. Shaw, G. Sobue, R.C. Bucelli, A. Chiò, P. Van Damme, A.C. Ludolph, J.D. Glass, J.A. Andrews, S. Babu, M. Benatar, C.J. McDermott, T. Cochrane, S. Chary, S. Chew, H. Zhu, F. Wu, I. Nestorov, D. Graham, P. Sun, M. McNeill, L. Fanning, T.A. Ferguson, and S. Fradette, for the VALOR and OLE Working Group*

STUDY RESULTS LEADING TO APPROVAL

● Placebo+delayed-start tofersen (N=36) ● Early-start tofersen (N=72)

A ALSFRS-R Total Score



No. at Risk

Delayed-start cohort	36	36	33	29	28
Early-start cohort	72	66	63	58	57

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

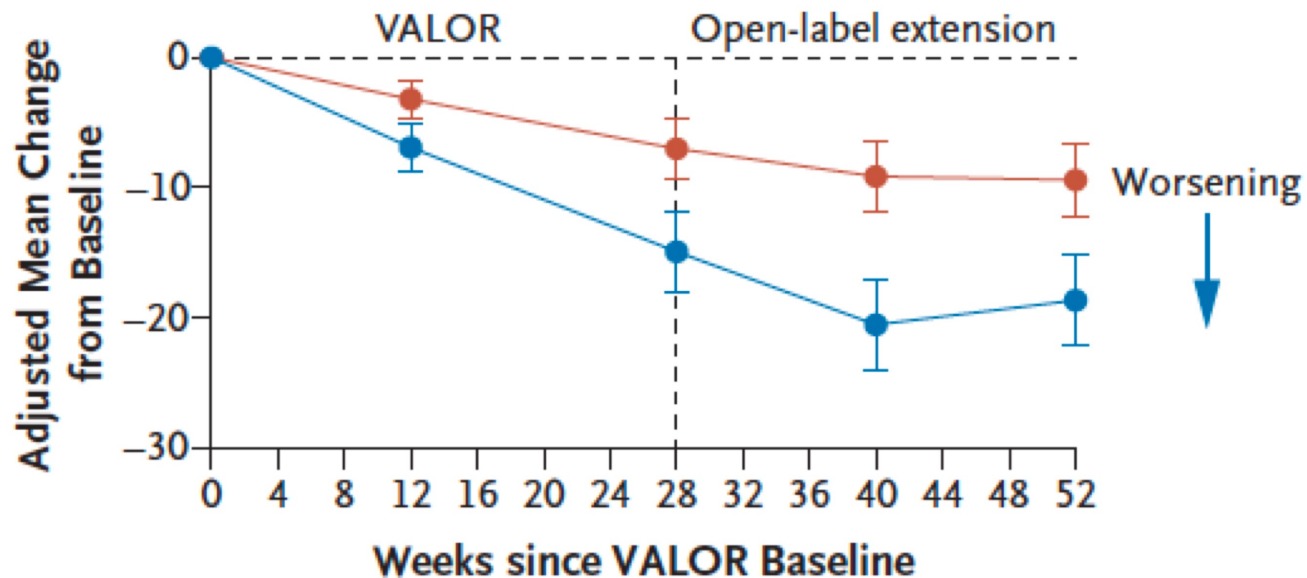
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STUDY RESULTS LEADING TO APPROVAL

● Placebo+delayed-start tofersen (N=36) ● Early-start tofersen (N=72)

B Percentage of Predicted Slow Vital Capacity



No. at Risk

Delayed-start cohort	36	34	25	20	20
Early-start cohort	72	59	52	39	38

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

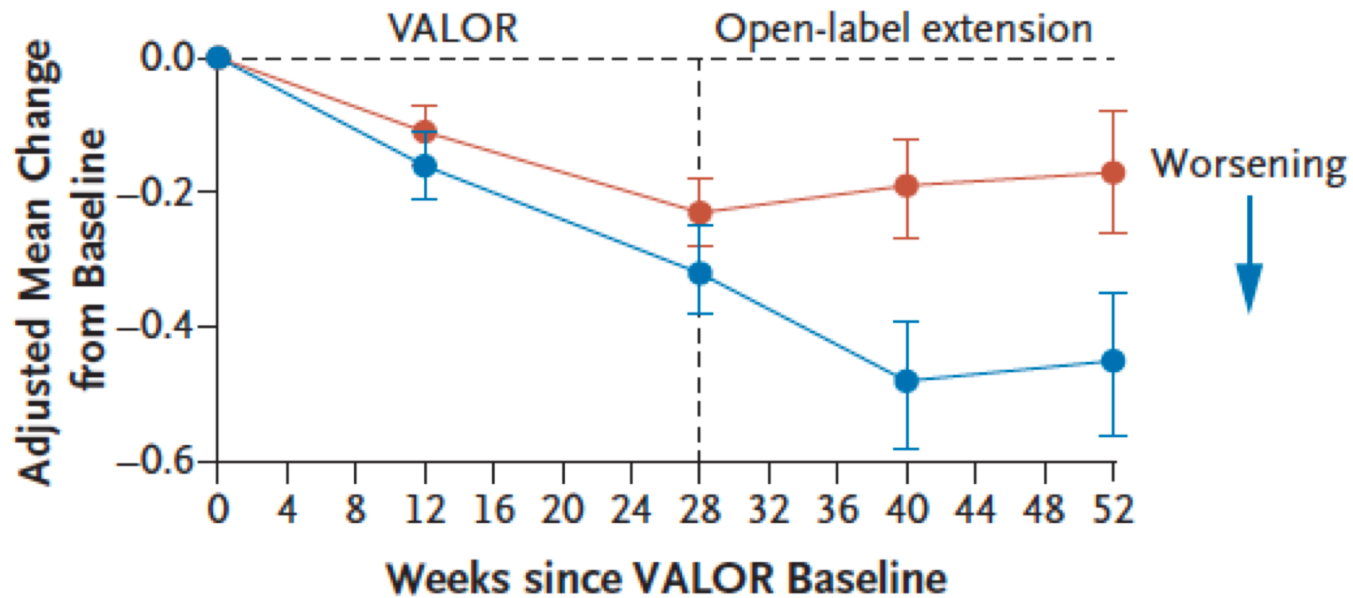
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STUDY RESULTS LEADING TO APPROVAL

● Placebo+delayed-start tofersen (N=36) ● Early-start tofersen (N=72)

C Handheld Dynamometry Megascore



No. at Risk

Delayed-start cohort	36	35	27	24	25
Early-start cohort	72	64	58	47	42

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Trial of Antisense Oligonucleotide Tofersen for *SOD1* ALS

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SAFETY PROFILE OF TOFERSEN

- Common side effects: Mild and related to LP/spinal tap (back soreness, headaches, muscle aches), CSF lab abnormalities, fatigue
- Rare (but serious) side effects: CNS inflammation (Chemical meningitis, transverse myelitis, radiculitis), intracranial hypertension (IIH) and papilledema (Swelling in the back of the eye, near the optic disc)

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT QALSODY (TOFERSEN)

- “Accelerated approval” status based on reduction in plasma neurofilament light chain (NfL) with tofersen
- “Continued/Full approval” contingent upon verification of clinical benefit in confirmatory trial(s) [The ongoing ATLAS trial for asymptomatic gene carriers will serve as the confirmatory trial]
- LOADING PERIOD: BIWEEEEKLY X3 | MAINTENANCE PERIOD: MONTHLY & INDEFINITELY
- ROUTINE SAFETY LABS & MONITORING FOR EVERY DOSING VISIT, AS PER YOUR CLINIC’S LP GUIDELINES

NEXT STEPS FOR CLINICAL ACCESS TO TOFERSEN

YOUR INVOLVEMENT:

Step 1 [PATIENT/ALS Neurologist]: Discuss whether patient qualifies for the medication (genetic testing must be positive for SOD1 and must have ALS)

Step 2a [PATIENT and ALS Neurologist]: Send a completed and signed START FORM & Insurance Card to Optum Frontier specialty pharmacy.

Step 2b [PATIENT and ALS Neurologist]: **Clinic completes the Insurance PA**. Send clinical progress notes, letter of medical necessity, genetic test results (and anything else insurance requires) to patient's insurance to initiate the Prior Authorization

Step 3 [PATIENT and Biogen]: Once the START FORM has been received by company, patient will be contacted by a tofersen Lead Case Manager (LCM) to help navigate the process

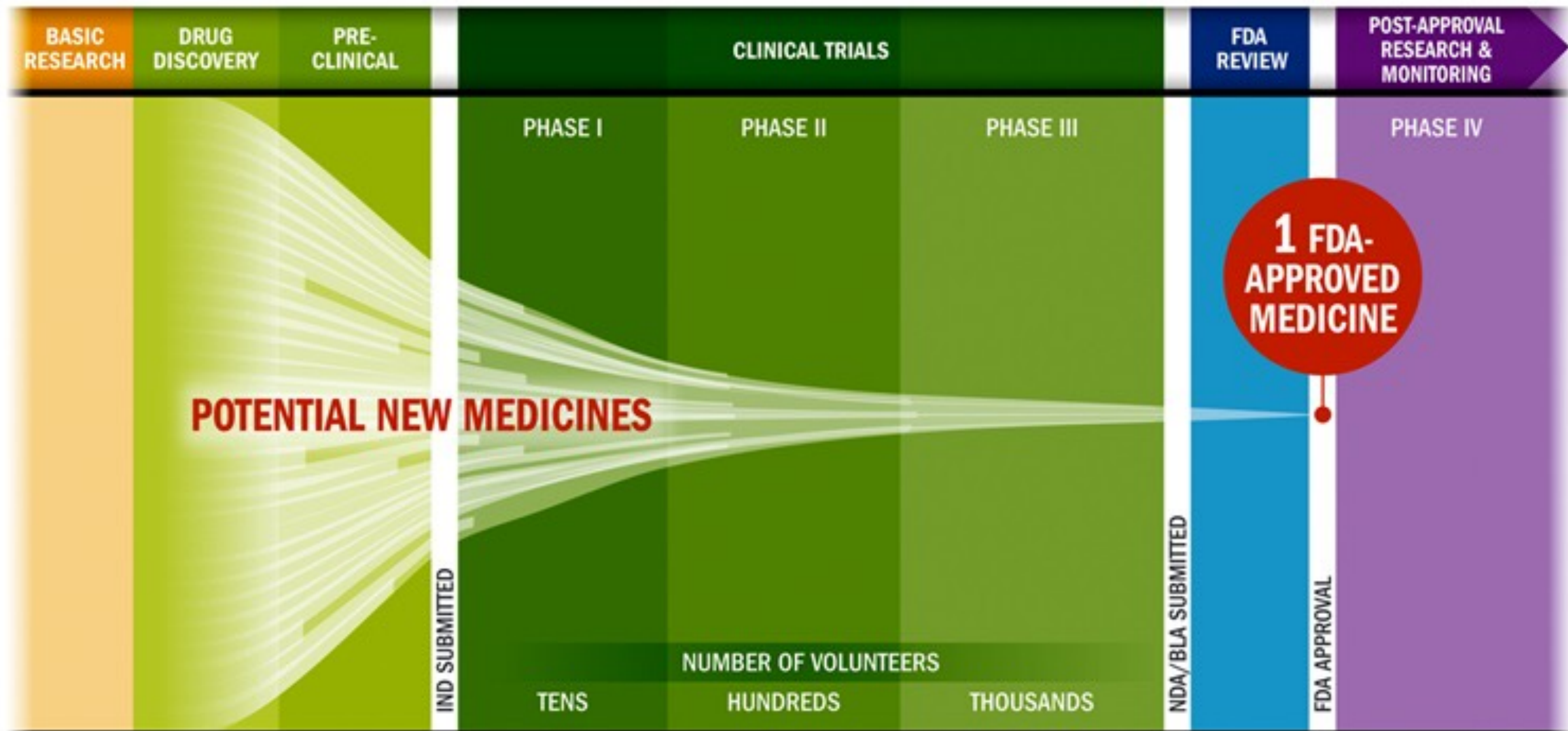
Step 4 : Once the insurance PA approved, ALS clinic and patient will coordinate the dosing visit and complete any copays

PENDING STEPS FOR CLINICS AND INSURANCE

- Tofersen needs to be added to clinic formulary & contracts need to be completed with specialty pharmacy
- Establishing clinic, insurance and specialty pharmacy workflows

CURRENT CLINICAL TRIALS & EXPANDED ACCESS PROGRAMS FOR ALL ALS

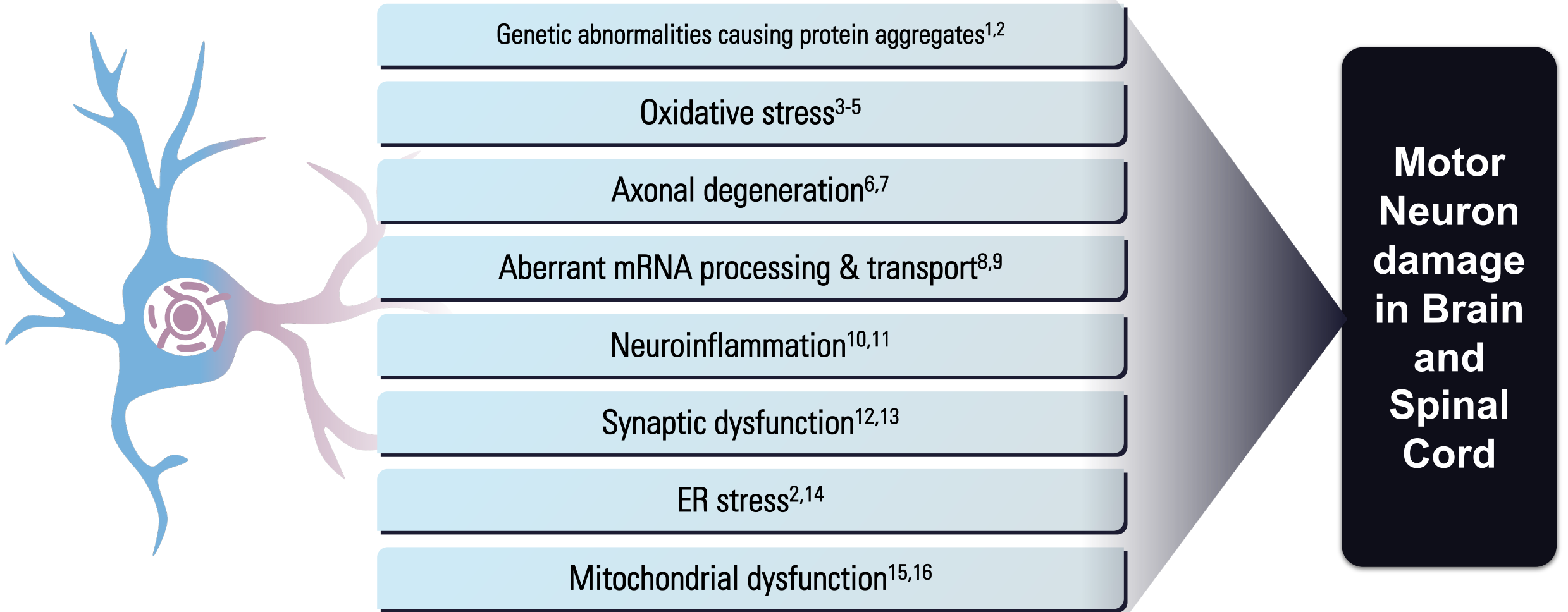




Key: IND: Investigational New Drug Application, NDA: New Drug Application, BLA: Biologics License Application

* The average R&D cost required to bring a new, FDA-approved medicine to patients is estimated to be \$2.6 billion over the past decade (in 2013 dollars), including the cost of the many potential medicines that do not make it through to FDA approval.

Multiple cellular mechanisms identified for ALS and multiple druggable targets available for drug development



CLINICAL TRIALS AT MGH: WITHOUT 36-MONTH DISEASE DURATION CRITERIA

All ALS

❑ BLZ945

(Phase 2, Enrolling)

❑ RAPA-501

(Phase 1, Enrolling)

❑ BIIB105

(Phase 1, Active, Cohort based enrollment for sporadic ALS)

Genetic ALS only

❑ BIIB105

(ATAXIN2 positive ALS- Phase 1, Active, Cohort based enrollment)

❑ ION-363

(FUS ALS–Phase 1-3, Cohort Based Enrollment)

❑ Tofersen ATLAS trial

(Phase 3 trial for Presymptomatic SOD1 gene carriers)

ALLOWS > 36-MONTH DISEASE DURATION

BLZ945

- Oral capsules, 800mg x 3 months, followed by 6 month OLE
- 3 PET scans or LPs to measure effect on reducing inflammation
- No placebo, Phase 2 trial
- Potent anti-inflammatory medication CSF-1R inhibitor
- US and European sites (Currently 6 sites, more sites are being added)
- SVC \geq 60%
- Disease duration <48 months
- Gtube/NIV/Trach allowed
- 3-month stable dose of riluzole, edaravone and PB/TURSO
- Antidepressants exclusionary due to DDI

RAPA-501

- IV infusion, Cell-based therapy
- Autologous Regulatory T cell infusion
- Apheresis procedure will be used to collect immune T cells, used to expand Reg T and helper T cell population and infused back
- Cohorts 1 &2: 4 infusions
- Cohort 3: 4 cycles x 6 infusions
- 2 sites- MGH & Hackensack University Medical Center
- SVC \geq 50%
- No disease duration cutoff
- G-tube/NIV/Trach allowed
- 30-day stable dose of riluzole and/or edaravone

ASO/GENE THERAPY TRIALS

BIIB105 (Intrathecal)

- Parallel cohorts for ataxin2 als and sporadic ALS
- For SPORADIC ALS (2:1, SVC $\geq 60\%$) & for ATAXIN-2 ALS (3:1, SVC $\geq 50\%$)
- 7 month long RCT followed by OLE
- 13 sites
- No Ports/PICC lines allowed
- 60-day stable dose of edaravone, 30-day stable dose of riluzole |
- Sodium PB/TURSO NOT ALLOWED IN RCT, but can start in OLE
- Poorly controlled diabetes excluded

ION-363 (Intrathecal)

- Only for FUS+ ALS
- Randomization ratio 2:1 drug to placebo, SVC $\geq 50\%$
- 7 intrathecal doses over 14 months, followed by OLE
- 14 sites, FRS slope for various age-based stratification cohorts
 - For cohort A, slope ≥ 0.4 /month if 30-65. If < 30 , no slope requirement
 - For cohort B, must be >30 years old and slope <0.4 /month
- No ports/picc/ anticoagulants
- 28-day stable dose required (at screening) of edaravone, riluzole, Sodium PB/TURSO

PHOENIX, A GLOBAL PHASE 3 TRIAL OF AMX0035 IS NEARING COMPLETION IN EUROPE



PHOENIX

600 participants

48 weeks

- Definite or probable ALS
- <24 months from onset
- VC > 55%
- Physical function (ALSFRS-R)
- Survival
- Respiratory function
- Time to key events (hospitalization, feeding tube, BiPAP)
- Quality of Life
- Time to transition through ALS stages
- Impact on Caregivers

ENCALS

European Network to Cure ALS



NEALS

Northeast Amyotrophic
Lateral Sclerosis
Consortium

CLINICAL TRIALS AT THE HEALEY CENTER, MGH –

[HTTPS://WWW.MASSGENERAL.ORG/NEUROLOGY/ALS/RESEARCH/ALS-CLINICAL-TRIALS](https://www.massgeneral.org/neurology/als/research/als-clinical-trials)



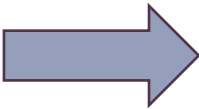
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Find a Doctor | Appointments & Referrals | Donate | Contact Us

About the Healey Center | Clinical Care | Patient & Family Resources | **Research Opportunities** | Platform Trial | News & Events

Clinical Trials at the Healey Center for ALS

If you're not sure which of these trials might be right for you, contact our [ALS Research Access Nurse](#) for guidance.



Enrolling ALS Clinical Trials

HEALEY ALS Platform Trial 

Trial of BIIB078 for C9ORF72-ALS 

Trial of BIIB100 for ALS 

Trial of BI 2945 for ALS 

Learn More about our ALS Trials

If you're not sure which of these trials might be right for you, get in touch with our Trial Enrollment and Coordination nurse or ask the research coordinator listed for each trial.



Trial enrollment & coordination service >

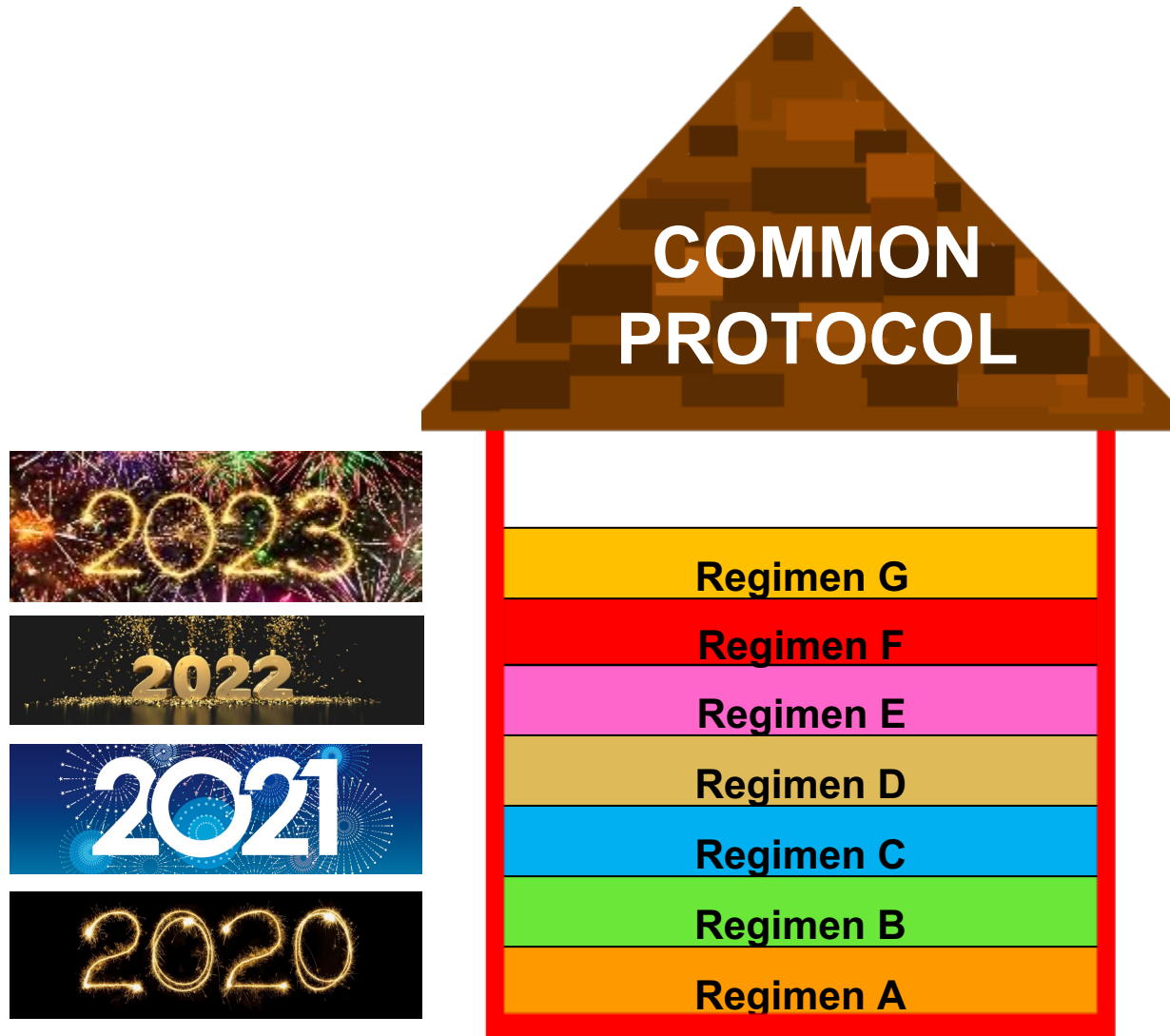
Clinical trial brochures (PDF) >

THE HEALEY ALS PLATFORM TRIAL



HEALEY ALS Platform Trial- grounded in collaboration

Launched in 2020 – Continues to expand



**1 Protocol
(Phase 2/3)
1 single IRB
Central Governance**

**7 Regimens
70+ Enrolling Sites
~1300 Participants**

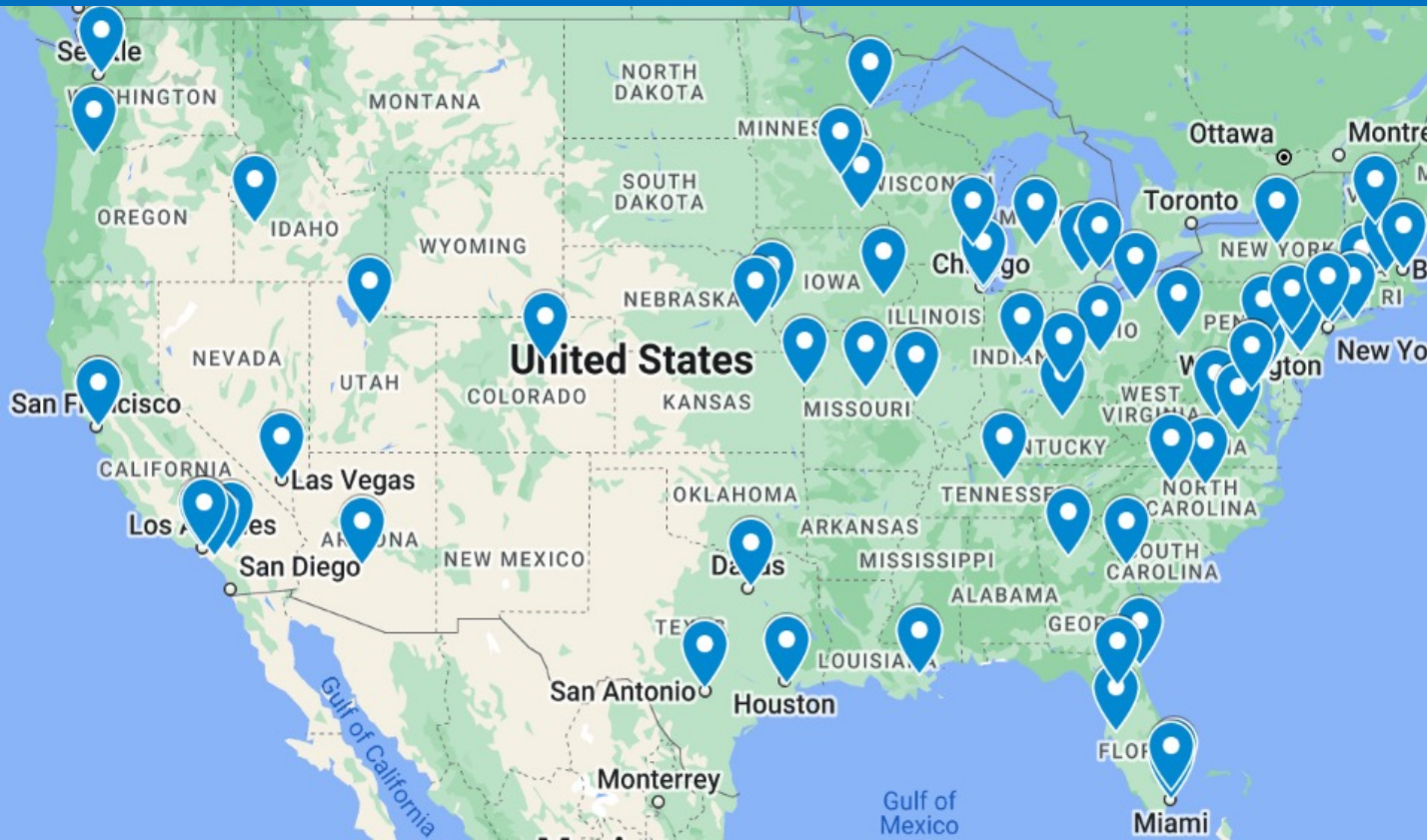
Regimen: Active Study Drug + Matching Placebo



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Sean M. Healey & AMG Center
for ALS at Mass General

Healey ALS Platform trial is run at 70+ NEALS sites



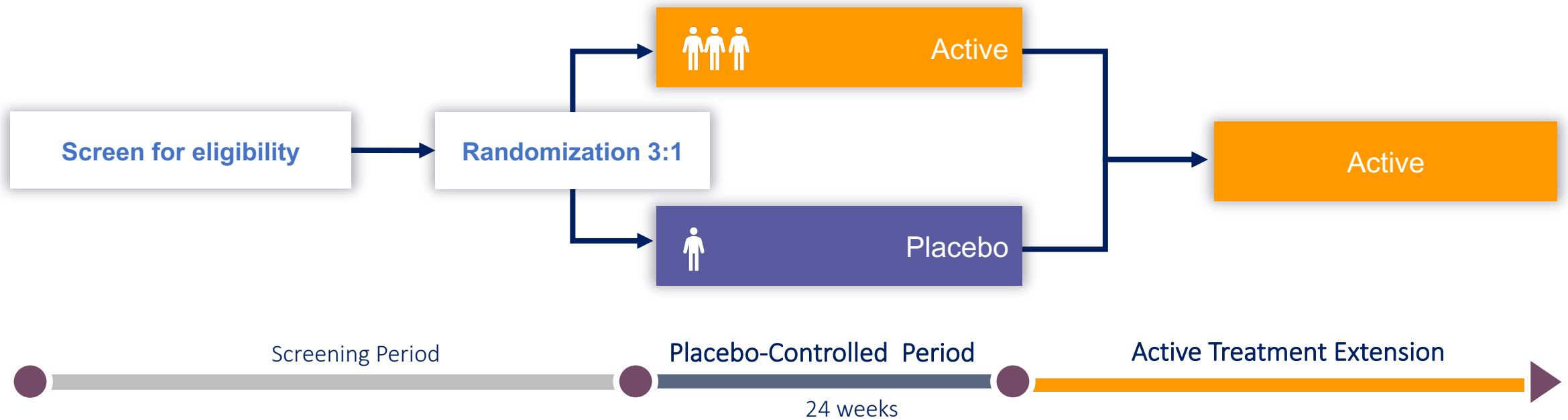
- ✓ Texas Neurology
- ✓ Mass General Hospital
- ✓ UTHSCSA
- ✓ Hospital for Special Care
- ✓ Holy Cross Hospital
- ✓ Thomas Jefferson
- ✓ Houston Methodist
- ✓ Henry Ford Health System
- ✓ Barrow Neurological Institute
- ✓ Ohio State University
- ✓ Northwestern University
- ✓ University of Chicago
- ✓ Wake Forest
- ✓ University of Nebraska
- ✓ Loma Linda University
- ✓ University of Washington
- ✓ University of Iowa
- ✓ Washington University
- ✓ University of Pennsylvania
- ✓ University of Michigan
- ✓ California Pacific Medical Cen
- ✓ Penn State Hershey
- ✓ UMass Worcester
- ✓ University of Miami
- ✓ University of Colorado
- ✓ Cedars-Sinai
- ✓ University of Florida
- ✓ University of South Florida
- ✓ Columbia University
- ✓ University of Virginia
- ✓ Emory University
- ✓ University of Maryland
- ✓ SUNY Upstate
- ✓ Beth Israel Deaconess
- ✓ Temple University
- ✓ Dartmouth-Hitchcock
- ✓ Medical College of Wisconsin
- ✓ Spectrum Health
- ✓ University of Missouri
- ✓ University of Minnesota
- ✓ Johns Hopkins University
- ✓ University of CA Irvine
- ✓ University of Kansas
- ✓ Vanderbilt University
- ✓ University of Kentucky
- ✓ Mayo Rochester
- ✓ Duke University
- ✓ Neurology Associates
- ✓ Ochsner Health System
- ✓ Mayo Clinic Florida
- ✓ St. Louis University
- ✓ Providence Brain and Spine
- ✓ Georgetown University
- ✓ University of Southern California
- ✓ Cleveland Clinic
- ✓ George Washington University
- ✓ University of California, San Francisco
- ✓ Indiana University
- ✓ Stony Brook University
- ✓ University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ University of Utah
- ✓ Augusta University
- ✓ University of Cincinnati
- ✓ Virginia Commonwealth University
- ✓ Swedish Medical Center
- ✓ Las Vegas Clinic
- ✓ Kaiser, Los Angeles
- ✓ Lehigh Valley Health Network
- ✓ St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
- ✓ Hackensack University
- ✓ Essentia Health
- ✓ Nova Southeastern University



NEALS

Northeast Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Consortium®

This is a Phase 2 trial design with an objective to provide a go / no go decision about Phase 3 confirmatory trial candidacy for each Regimen drug



Primary Endpoint (Placebo-Controlled Period)

Change in disease severity (ALSFERS-R total score and survival) over 24 weeks of study treatment

Safety, Secondary, and Exploratory Endpoints

(respiratory function, muscle strength, survival, biomarkers + regimen-specific endpoints)



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for ALS at Mass General

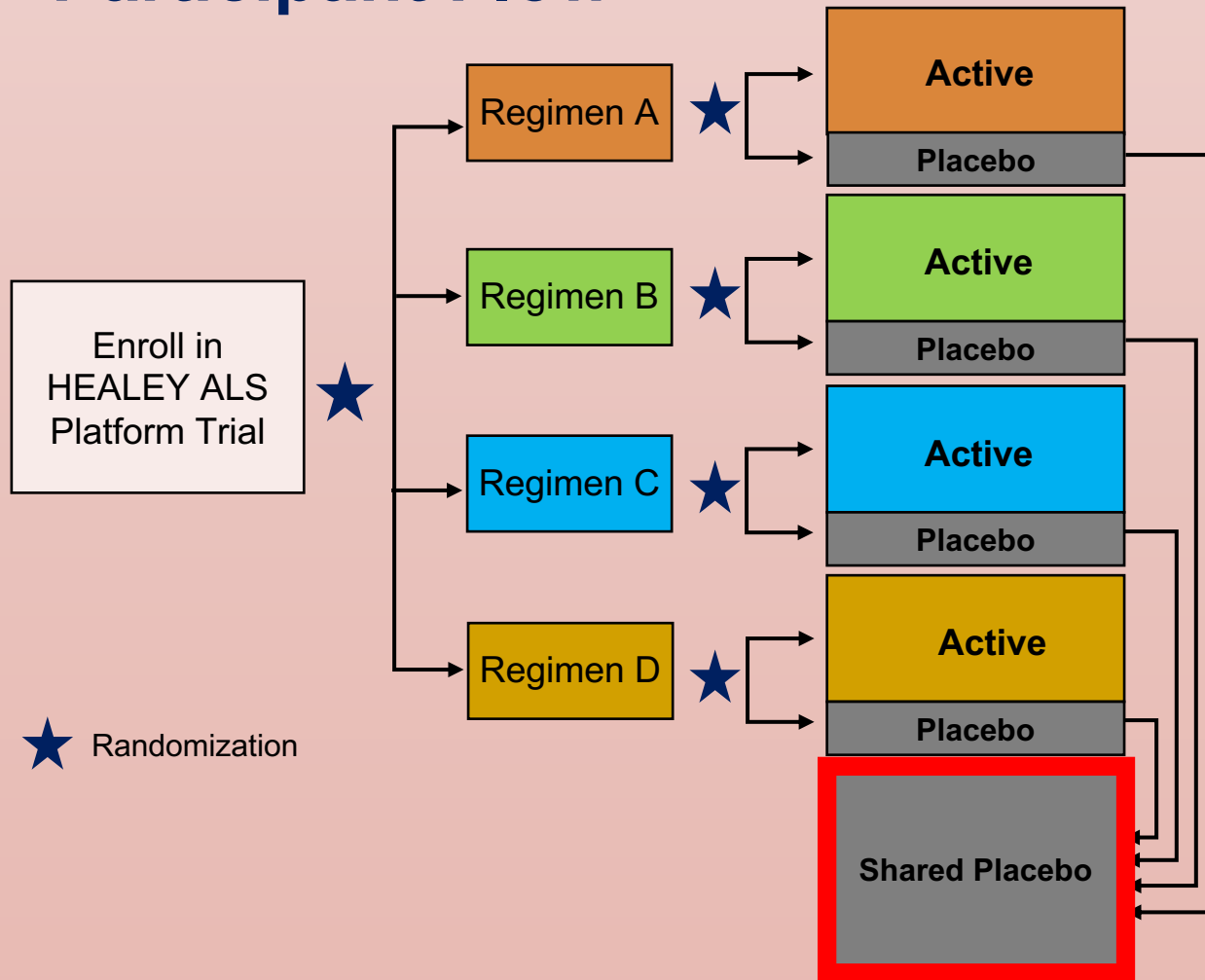
BROAD AND INCLUSIVE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Sporadic or familial ALS
(possible, probable, lab-supported probable, or definite by revised El Escorial criteria for ALS)
2. Time since weakness onset ≤ 3 years
3. Slow vital capacity $\geq 50\%$ of predicted
4. Able to swallow
5. Either not take or be on stable dose of riluzole for ≥ 30 days
6. Either not take or have completed at least one cycle of edaravone
7. Either not take or have started SodiumPB/TURSO ≥ 30 days prior to screening

Each regimen is compared to the shared placebo dataset

Common trial infrastructure & Shared Placebo bring trial efficiency

Participant Flow



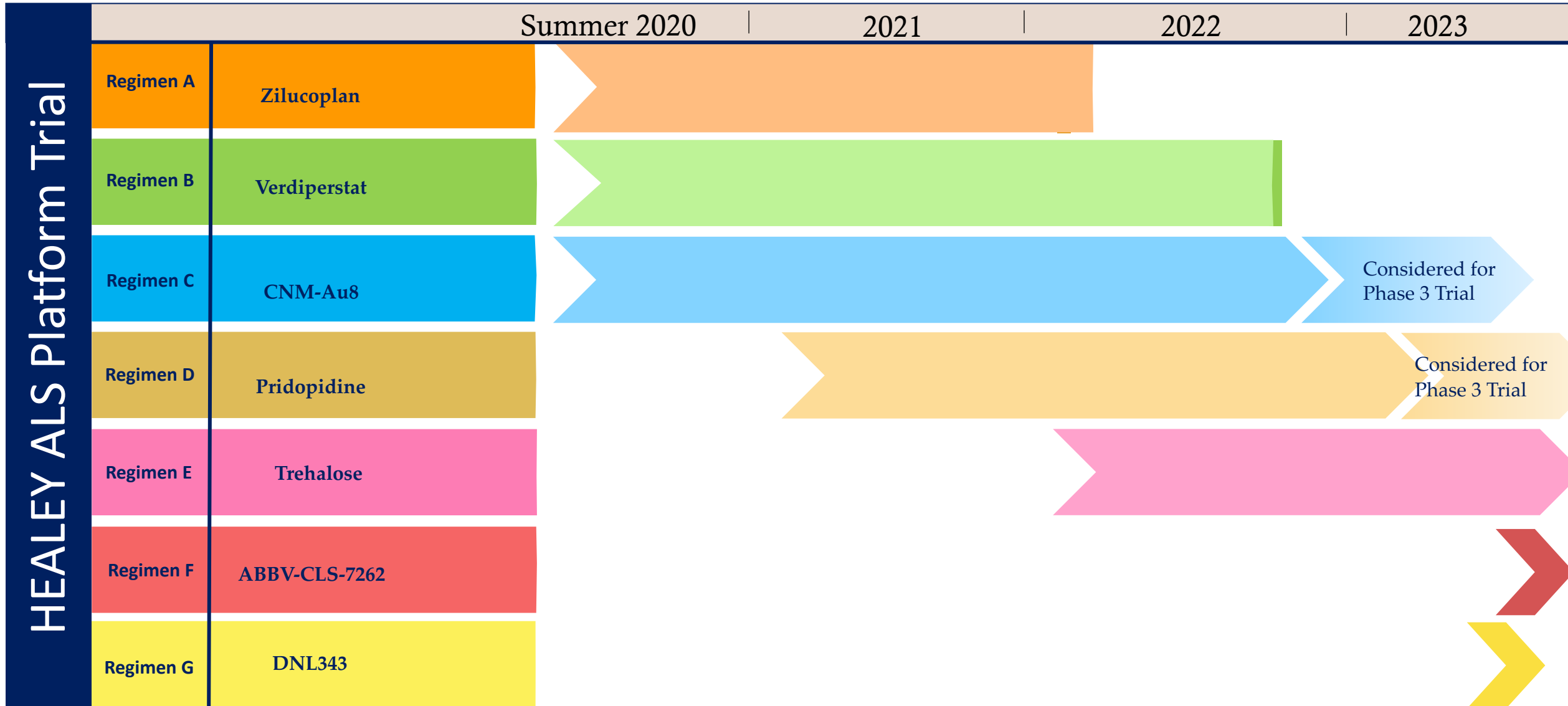
This is a perpetual trial to provide decisive answers and direction with efficient execution (faster timelines, efficient use of resources, less placebo)



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for ALS at Mass General

PROGRESS FROM THE TRIAL SO FAR



HEALEY ALS Platform Trial

Regimen Updates

➤ October 2022: **Regimen C** top line results announced

* While the primary endpoint was not met, a secondary endpoint analysis of survival demonstrated a significant reduction in risk of death or permanently assisted ventilation when adjusting for baseline risk imbalances in the CNM-Au8 regimen for the 30 mg dose

➤ February 2023: **Regimen D** top line results announced

* While the primary endpoint was not met, a secondary endpoint analysis of speech function demonstrated significant benefit in some speech domains and posthoc analyses showed favorable trends in early and definite ALS cohorts



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HEALEY ALS Platform Trial

Ongoing and Upcoming Regimens



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- **Regimen E enrollment completed & ongoing**
- **Regimens F enrolling Regimen G enrolling**
- **Additional Regimens selected** for inclusion; working on contracts



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for ALS at Mass General

The Healey ALS platform trial also allows for developing novel ALS biomarkers and trial outcome measures



DNA – whole genome sequencing



Neurofilaments – for all regimens + regimen-specific biomarkers based on MOA



Home Spirometry – critical during the pandemic



Speech Analysis – emerging digital biomarker

Additional biomarkers/outcome measures for upcoming and future regimens (e.g., new patient-reported outcomes- ROADS)

Contact our patient navigators for questions regarding trial participation



Catherine Small
Patient Navigator



Allison Bulat
Community Engagement Research Access Nurse



Judi Carey, RN

Contact the Patient Navigator
HEALEYALSPlatform@mgh.harvard.
edu

833-425-8257 (HALT ALS)



<https://bit.ly/3UPTzR9>

THE EXPANSION OF EXPANDED ACCESS PROGRAMS (EAP) IN ALS



FDA ENCOURAGES OLE & EAP IN ALS CLINICAL TRIAL DESIGN

- **Long term safety data:**

“During development, sponsors should collect safety data, including data from open-label studies or expanded access programs, from patients across the spectrum of disease stages and severities, and whenever possible, data from patients who may not have been included in effectiveness studies but in whom, based on other data, the use of the drug following approval is likely.” [Page 4]

- **Generalizability of safety and efficacy data:**

“. There is a need to understand the safety and effectiveness of investigational drugs for ALS across disease stages..... An acceptable approach could include enrollment of a broad population with the conduct of the primary analysis in a study subset defined based on clinical characteristics and/or biomarkers, and analyses of the broader population being secondary and supportive “ [Page 3]

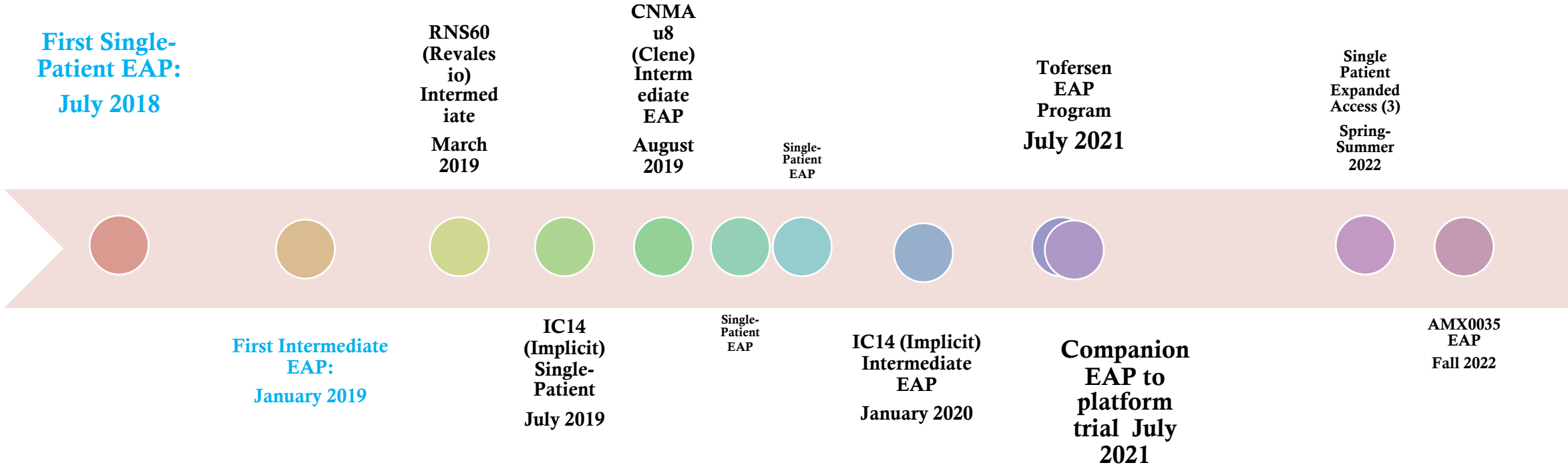
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Developing Drugs for Treatment Guidance for Industry

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

September 2019
Clinical/Medical

THE MGH EAP PROGRAM : STARTED WITH A SINGLE PATIENT AND OVER 5 YEARS, GREW TO A MULTI-PATIENT, MULTI-STUDY EAPS

- **Programs:** To date, **27** separate EAPs (under sIND and cohort-based EAPs)
Currently, **13** active EAP protocols are active
- **Participants** ~106 active participants
~ 240 enrolled total since 2018



EAP PARADIGM IS AN EXTENSION OF ALS CLINICAL CARE



Extension of Clinical Care

Research Model



Aligning EAP study visits with clinical visits and clinical labs



Aligning goals between IRB, FDA, industry sponsor, and Provider-Patient

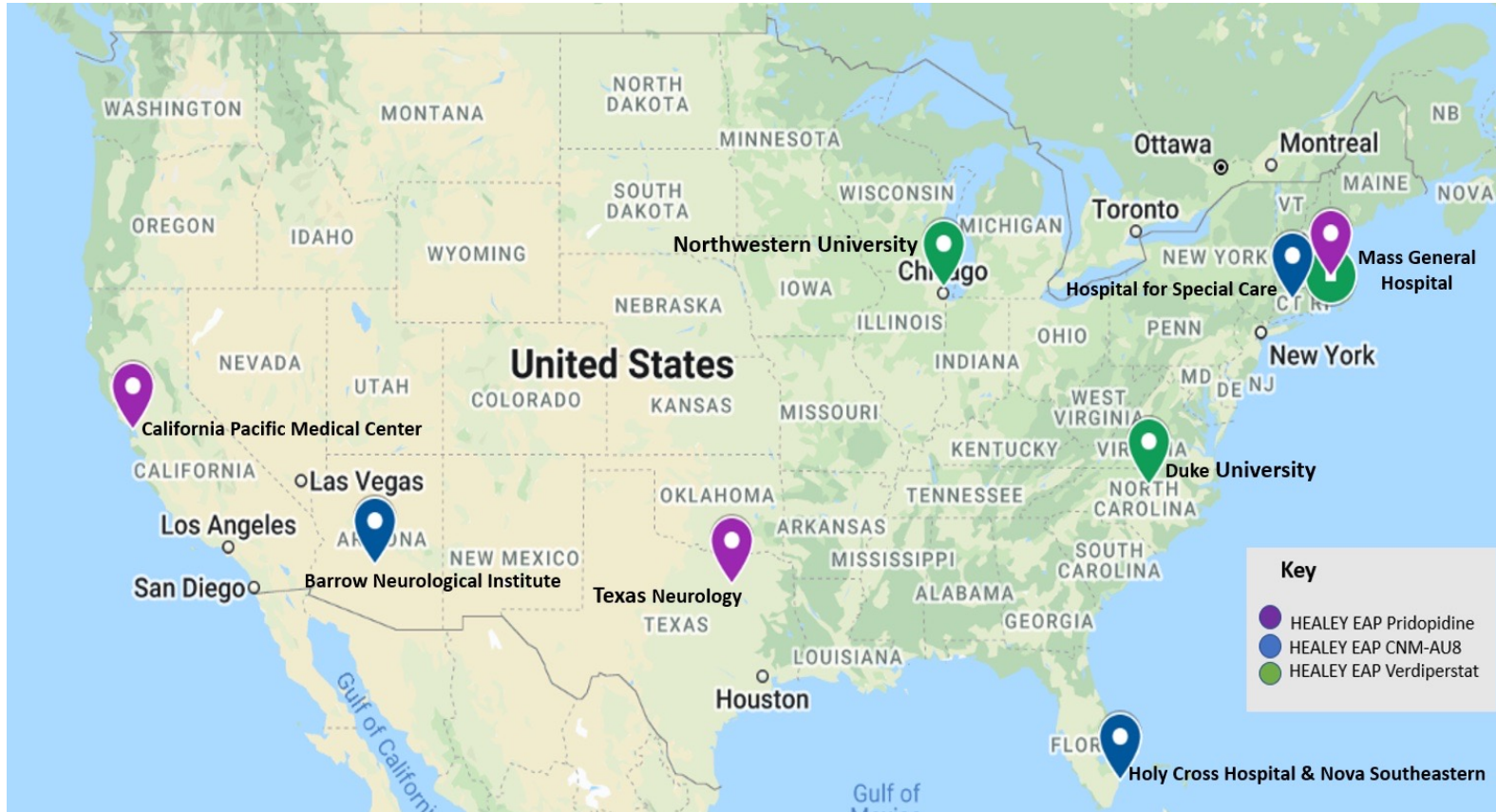


Including clinical and research staffing resources
Utilizing clinic space for EAP study visits
Some institutions may use EMR for source documentation



Making sure protocol is followed for study conduct
Safety reporting (SAEs) is done in a timely and FDA/IRB compliant manner

EAP COMPANION TO HEALEY ALS PLATFORM TRIAL - FIRST MULTICENTER EAP IN ALS (SINCE JULY 2021)



Companies provide drug, remainder of costs covered by philanthropy and foundations

IND held by either drug manufacturer or Healey Center investigator

MGH- NCRI ARO utilized for operations given multiple sites

- Centralized operations
- Reduced site regulatory and administrative burden
- Centralized site training, regulatory reporting requirements, safety monitoring expectations, contracting, electronic data capture (NeuroREACH™)

81 EAP participants enrolled across 10 sites

EAP OF TOFERSEN INTRATHECAL ASO

First multi-national EAP in ALS | Ends in June 2023 in the US | 120 sites worldwide | ~300 participants enrolled

For symptomatic ALS individuals who carry the SOD1 gene mutation

Initially a single patient IND based EAP (July 2021), later expanded to intermediate cohort-based EAP (Oct 2021)

Available world wide (Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia)

Industry provides drug and protocol

All other operational costs and IRB approvals are undertaken by sites

Safety labs and study procedures may be billed to patient's insurance based on institutional practices

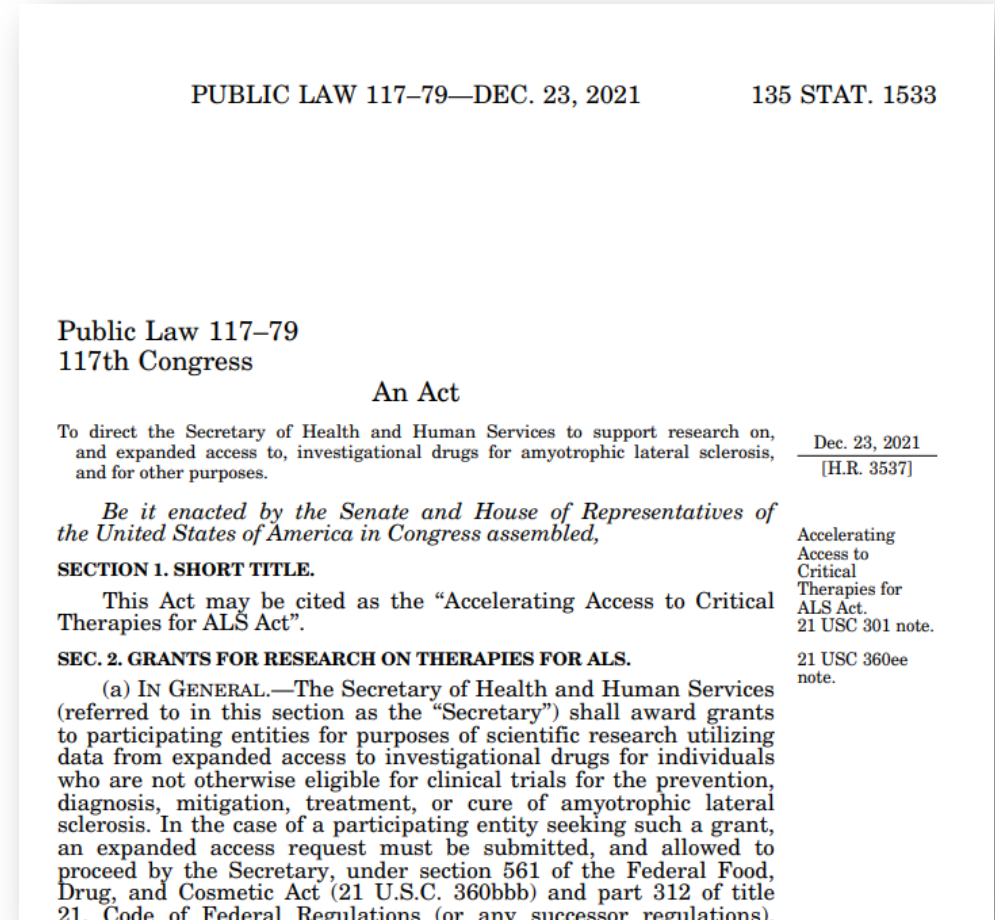
Only safety data provided to industry for FDA reporting, no other efficacy or biomarker data collected

THE ACT FOR ALS – A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPANDING ACCESS AND DRUG DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH IN PARALLEL TO ALS CLINICAL TRIALS

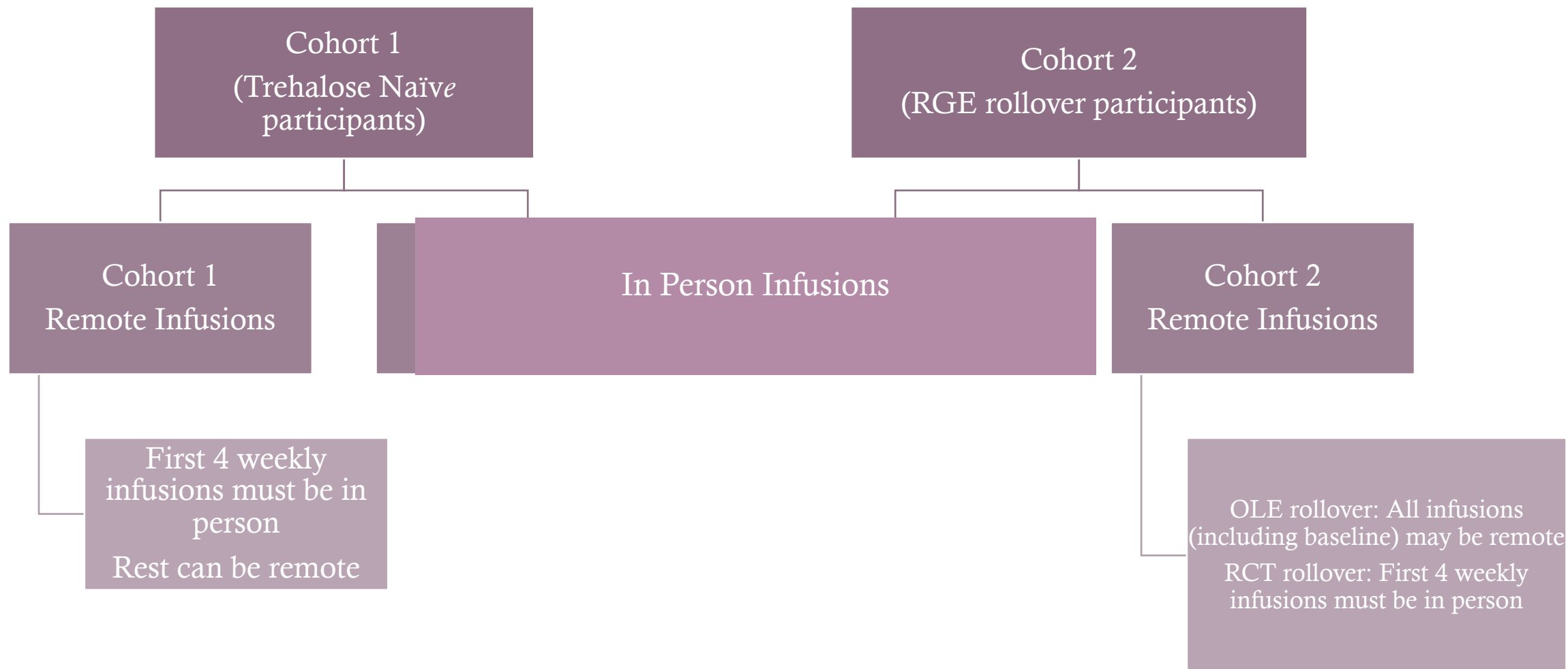
Signed into law on Dec 23, 2021

NIH U01 Grants for Research on Therapies via
Intermediate-Size EAPs for ALS

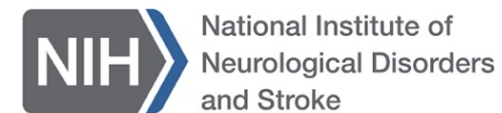
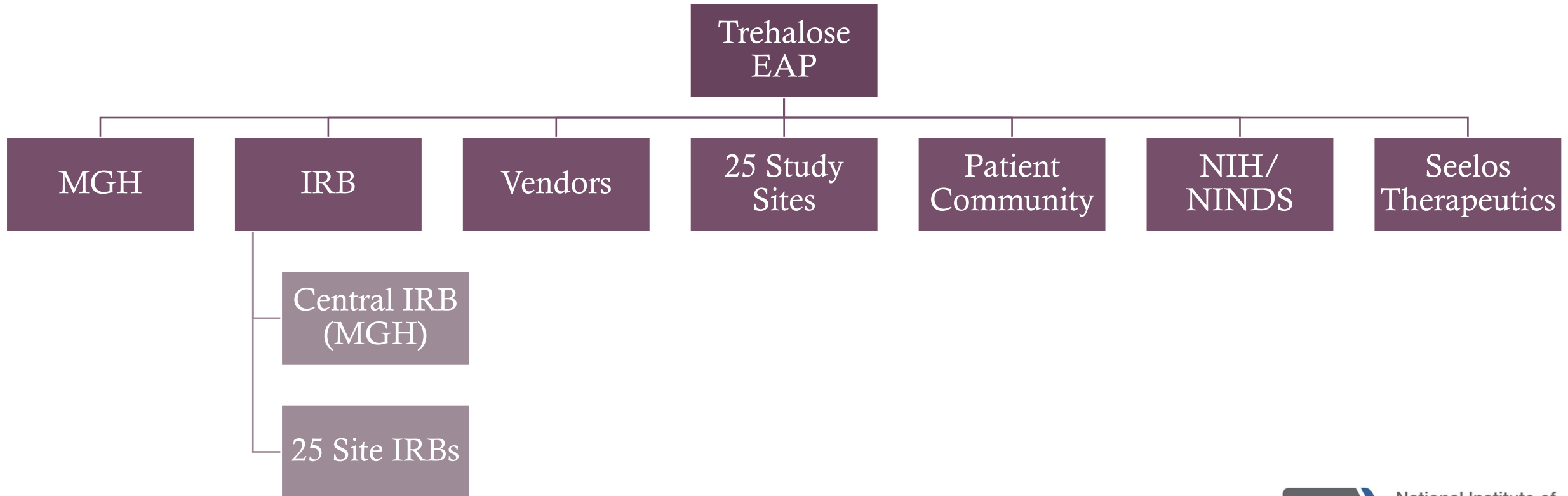
- MGH Healey Center receives the first grant to partner with Seelos therapeutics (A small business)
- Trehalose companion EAP in startup phase, will be run in parallel to Regimen E of the HEALEY ALS Platform Trial
- MGH Multi PIs: Babu, Berry, Paganoni
- 70 ALS participants will participate in this EAP across 25 sites and will receive weekly IV infusions of experimental IV SLS-005



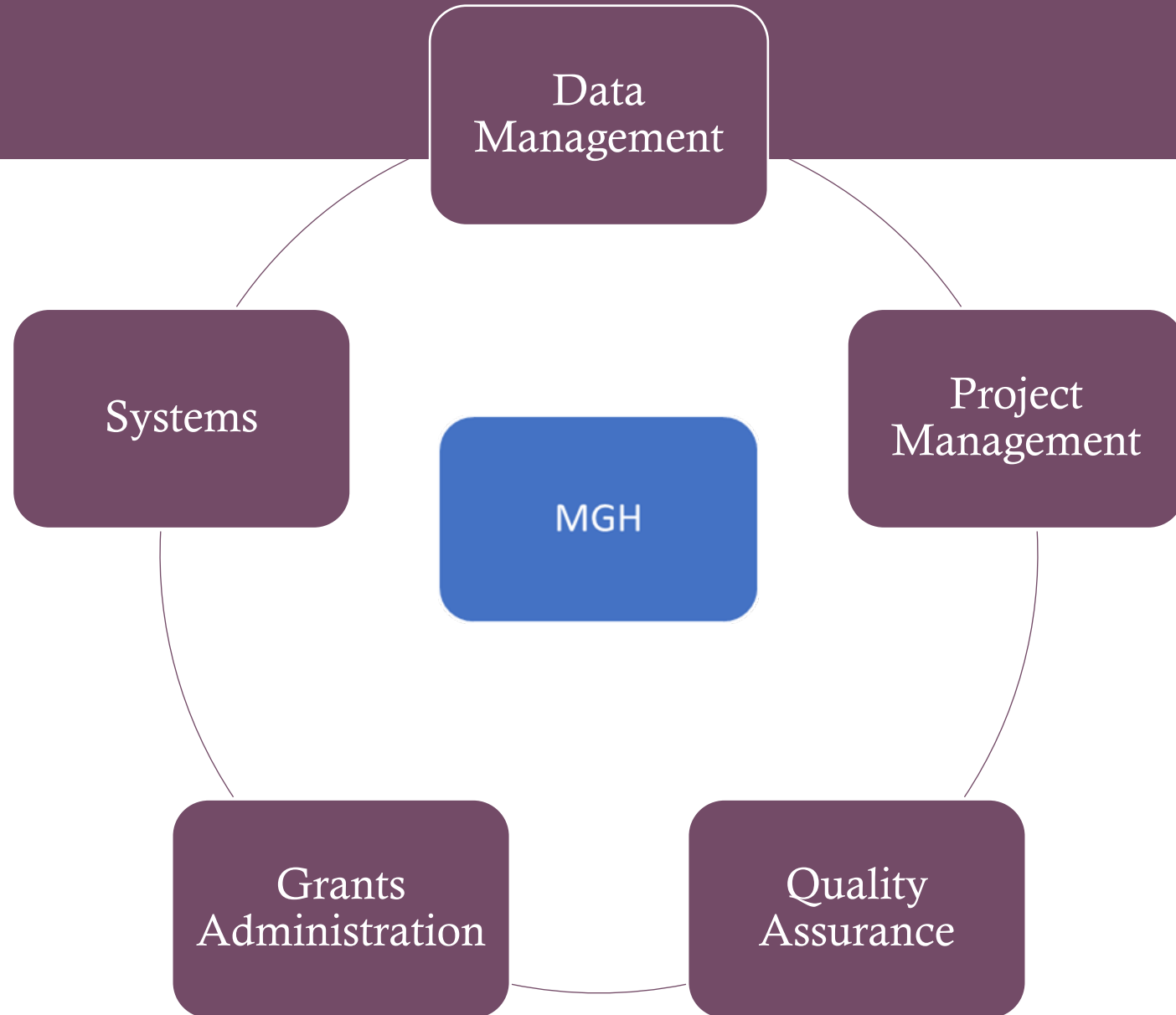
Trehalose EAP : Run like a clinical trial– 70 participants, 6-month treatment, long term safety, efficacy assessments



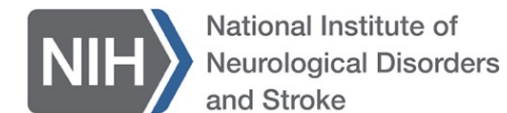
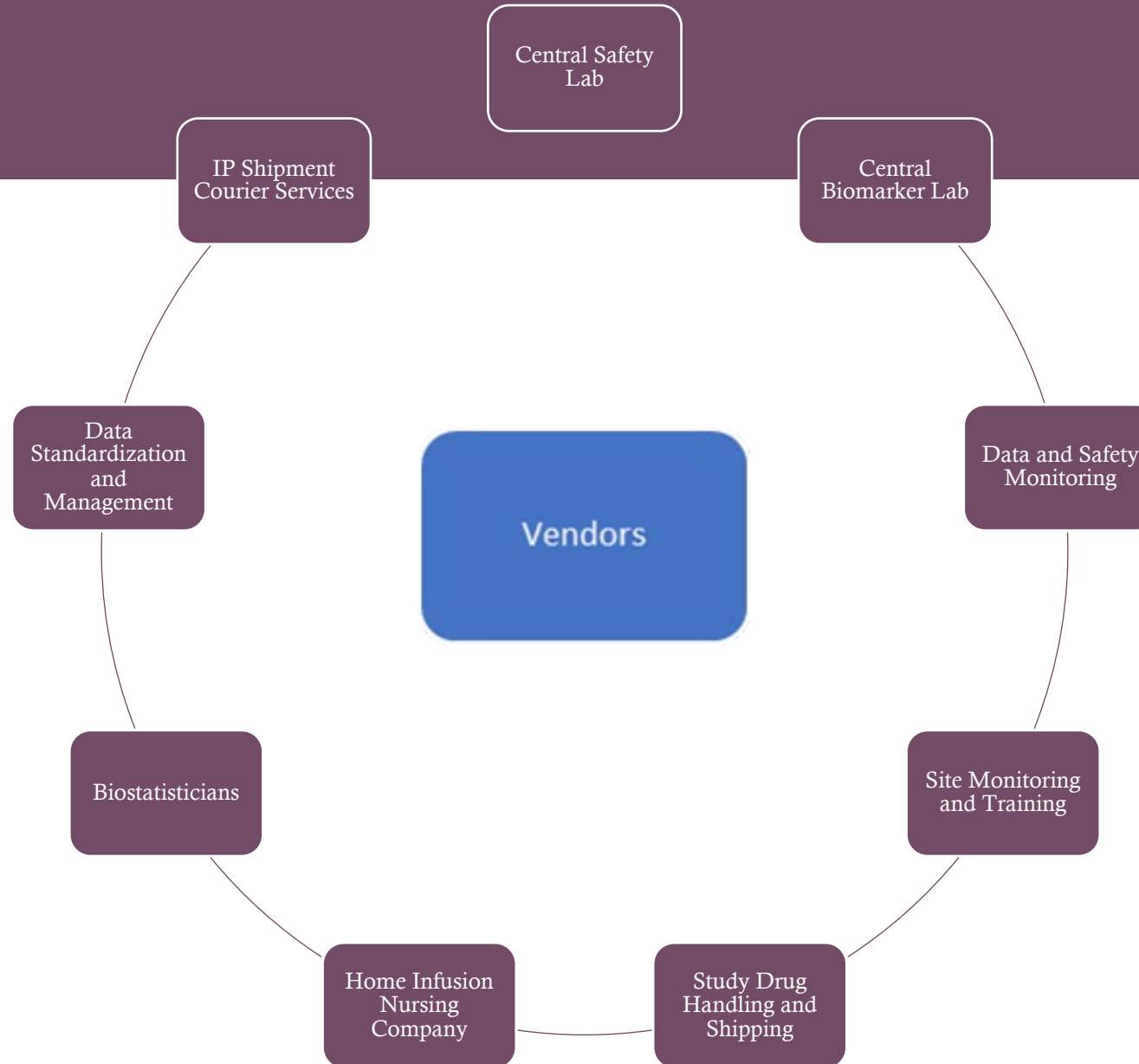
Trehalose EAP Project – large scale project with complex operations



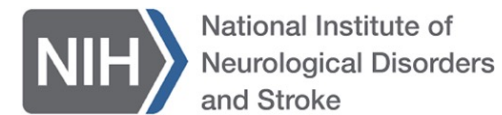
Trehalose EAP Project – large scale project with complex operations



Trehalose EAP Project – large scale project with complex operations



Trehalose EAP Project Overview – large scale project with complex operations



THE MGH ALS CLINIC, THE MGH HEALEY ALS TEAM & SUPPORTING TEAMS

Bringing together a community to innovate the ALS clinical trial landscape



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The AMG Foundation

A person stands on a dark, flat surface, looking up at the Earth from space. The Earth is a large, curved blue and white sphere in the upper half of the frame. The person is a small silhouette in the center, with a shadow cast on the ground. The background is black with some faint stars.

One person can make a difference,
and everyone should try.

~John F. Kennedy

EmilysQuotes.Com

SUMMARY

It is an exciting time for ALS! There are over 160 companies developing therapies for ALS.

This calls for everyone's participation- both patients and ALS clinics!

When more clinical trials are completed in a timely and efficient manner, our knowledge advances faster and in turn, we can contribute to more treatment discoveries for patients with ALS



THANK YOU

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