Spring is finally upon us and May means **ALS Awareness Month**. During this month we hope you will take the time to not only notice more social media posts about ALS, but that you also will be a vocal advocate. Though ALS is a reality for most of you reading this newsletter, there are still too many in our communities who need educated on the disease.

We kicked off the campaign with the annual **Fiesta 5k Challenge**. Thank you to those who had a fundraising team, sponsors, walked/ran, or volunteered; it was one of the largest successes in terms of funds raised in the 12 year event. Read the recap below, as well as the wrap up of the **ALS Art Affair** that was held in April.

Be sure to visit our website at [www.als.emory.edu](http://www.als.emory.edu) and our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com) to stay up to date. And don’t forget to share this newsletter with others.

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**Research News**

**New ALS Gene KIF5A Identified**

The Emory ALS Center participated in a multinational study searching for new genetic abnormalities that may lead to the onset or progression of ALS. This effort most recently led to the discovery of the gene KIF5A, which shows mutations in a small proportion of ALS patients. KIF5A belongs to a family of genes and proteins that are important for the structure of nerve fibers and the movement of molecules in neurons (axonal transport). There are now a number of genes and proteins identified as abnormal in ALS patients that also are involved in the structure and function of neurons and nerve fibers. This new discovery provides a new target for ALS research and possibly ALS therapies.

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**12th Annual Fiesta 5k Challenge Recap**

Saturday, April 28, 2018 was a perfect morning to kick off **ALS Awareness Month** and that's just what happened at the **12th annual Fiesta 5k Challenge**. The event, which brings runners and walkers from across Georgia and the southeast, took place at Fowler Park in Cumming, GA and raised over $31,000 to benefit the Emory ALS Center. Read more

Here are some photos from the morning, courtesy or True Speed Photo. View all the photos [here](#).
Work In Progress...Coming Soon

Be on lookout for a survey link coming soon to address issues that arise for families who are recently diagnosed with a new to ALS/new to clinic orientation group.

Inaugural ALS Art Affair a Big Success

The inaugural ALS Art Affair, held on February 24, 2018 was a huge success. The event, held in honor of Jan Giordano and her creative friends, brought together artists and advocates to unite and raise funds to support the Emory ALS Clinic. The organizers surpassed their goal and raised $10,000! Many thanks to Manuela Davis, David Sanders, and the entire team for a wonderful event.
Support Emory ALS Center at Upcoming Events

6th Annual Terance Mathis Celebrity Golf Classic
September 16-17, 2018
Sunday - 9/16/18 - Topgolf Alpharetta
Monday - 9/17/18 - St. Marlo Country Club

If you are not a golfer, there is an option to attend just the Sunday evening event. There will be a guest speaker, food, drinks, silent auction, and golf games in the bays at Topgolf. CLICK HERE for a Sunday only ticket.

Monday's tournament will begin with a Helicopter Ball Drop just before the shotgun start. Anyone can purchase a golf ball for the helicopter for a chance to win $500! Lunch is provided and an awards ceremony will follow the round. Registration for the golf tournament INCLUDES ticket to Sunday's event at Topgolf. CLICK HERE to register.

You have been included in this newsletter as a service we offer at the Emory ALS Center. You will receive our quarterly newsletter, notification of upcoming conferences, symposiums, and special events. If you prefer not to be on this list, please contact Karen Duffy to be removed. No other person on the list is able to view your address and your information will not be shared.