

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

*Agenda subject to change

MEETING AND BREAKOUT COLOR LEGEND

General Info & General Sessions

Meals & Receptions

(open to all attendees)

NEALS Working Group & Committee Meetings

(open to NEALS members)



NEALS Affiliated Trial: Study

Investigator Meetings

(limited to site investigators & study teams)

NEALS Member Training Sessions & Workshops

(open to NEALS members)

NEALS MEMBER ONLY DAY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sands unless otherwise noted.

8:00a – 5:00p	Registration (Breakfast on own)	Ballroom Foyer
7:30 – 12:30p	Respiratory Care & Ventilation Committee Workshop Workshop Breakout <i>Moderators: Eufrosina Young, MD (SUNY Upstate Medical University), Benjamin Rix Brooks MD (Clinical Trials Planning, LLC), John Coleman, MD (Northwestern University), Lisa Wolfe, MD (Northwestern University)</i> <i>Presenters: Jason Ackrivo MD, MSCE (University of Pennsylvania), Pamela Cazzolli, RN (ALS Care Project), Philip Choi, MD (NYU Langone Health), Tamara LeBlanc, BSRC-RRT (NSU Health), Won Lee, MD (UT Southwestern), Zachary Simmons, MD (Penn State Health), George Slavinski, RT (SUNY Upstate Medical University), and Kathleen Twomey, MD (Penn State Health)</i>	(Opal Sol) Solstice IV (Opal Sol) Solstice III
10:00 – 11:00a	Recruitment, Retention, and Experience in ALS Research Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Lindsay Heyd, BS (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH) and Sabrina Paganoni, MD, PhD (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Beach Breeze
10:00 – 11:00a	Upper Motor Neuron Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Sabrina Paganoni, MD, PhD (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH), Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Medical), and Hande Özdinler, MD (Northwestern University)</i>	Sea Watch
11:00 – 12:00p	Research Coordinator Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Heidi Runk, CCRC (Penn State) and Brandy Quarles, MPH, CCRC (Augusta University)</i>	Sea Side
11:30 – 1:30p	Lunch	Opal Ballroom Foyer
12:00 – 1:00p	Palliative Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Ambereen Mehta, MD, MPH, FAAHPM (Johns Hopkins University) and Laura Foster, MD (University of Colorado)</i>	Sea Watch

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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NEALS MEMBER ONLY DAY (CONTINUED) TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sands unless otherwise noted.

12:00 – 1:00p	Imaging Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Erik Pioro, MD, PhD, FRCPC (University of British Columbia) and Suma Babu, MBBS, MPH (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Beach View
12:00 – 2:30p	Clinical Research Staff Training & Development Workshop <i>Leads: Lindsay Heyd (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at Mass General), Heidi Runk, CCRC (Penn State), Lia Tamburello (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at Mass General)</i> <i>David Buseck (PALS Advisor to the NEALS Executive Committee), Jayna Duell, BSN, RN (University of Michigan), Kelly Gwathmey, MD (Columbia University), Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Johns Hopkins)</i>	Opal Sand
1:00 – 2:00p	Advance Practice Provider Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Jourdan Milliard, MSN, FNP-C (Barrow Neurological Institute), JinAe Arneklev, MSN, CRNP (Johns Hopkins University), and Gabriela Lopes, APRN (Nova Southeastern University)</i>	Sea Side
2:00 – 3:00p	Big Data Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chair: Alexander Sherman, MS (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Sand Salons
2:00 – 3:00p	Technology in ALS Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Andrew Geronimo, PhD (Penn State), Sabrina Paganoni, MD, PhD (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH) and Stephen Johnson, MD (Mayo Clinic Scottsdale)</i>	Sea Watch
3:00 – 7:30p	Outcome Measures Training <i>Lead: Gale Kittle, RN, MPH (Barrow Neurological Institute) and Jourdan Milliard, FNP-C (Barrow Neurological Institute)</i>	Opal Sea
3:00 – 4:00p	NEALS Information & Community Education (NICE) Working Group (Closed Session; Invite Only)	(Opal Sol) Estrella Hospitality Suite
3:00 – 4:00p	Genetic ALS, FTD and Related Phenotypes Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Claire Flaherty-Craig, PhD, MS (Penn State), Matthew Harms, MD (Columbia University), and Rita Sattler, PhD (Barrow Neurological Institute)</i>	Beach Breeze
3:30 – 4:30p	Refreshment Break	Ballroom Foyer
4:00 – 5:00p	Physical Therapists & Occupational Therapists Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Stephanie Johnson OTR/L PhD MHS (Augusta University), and Michele Weaver, PT, DPT, NCS (Corewell Health)</i>	Sea Watch

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NEALS MEMBER ONLY DAY (CONTINUED) TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sands unless otherwise noted.

4:00 – 5:00p	Nutrition Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Andrea Charvet, PhD, RDN, LDN (Nova Southeastern University), Stephanie Dobak, MS, RD, LDN (Jefferson Weinberg ALS Center), and Polina Vorobeychik, MPH (Washington University ALS Center)</i>	Sand Dune
4:00 – 6:00p	Site Investigator Training <i>Leads: Senda Ajroud-Driss, MD (Northwestern University), Christina Fournier, MD (Emory School of Medicine), Lindsay Heyd (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH), and Meghan Hall, MS, CCRA (Barrow Neurological Institute)</i>	Opal Sand
5:00 – 6:00p	Clinical Research Nurse Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Danica Sanders, RN (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Beach Breeze
5:00 – 6:00p	Respiratory Care & Ventilation Committee Meeting <i>Committee Chairs: Christopher D. Lee, MD, MPH (Vanderbilt University), Eufrosina Young, MD (SUNY Upstate) and Benjamin Rix Brooks, MD (Clinical Trials Planning LLC)</i>	Sea Shore & Side

(End of NEALS Member Only day)

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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Available to virtual attendees

MEETING AND BREAKOUT COLOR LEGEND

General Info & General Sessions

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NEALS Working Group & Committee Meetings

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NEALS Affiliated Trial: Study

Investigator Meetings

(limited to site investigators & study teams)

NEALS Member Training Sessions & Workshops

(open to NEALS members)

DAY ONE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sol unless otherwise noted.

7:00a – 4:30p	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
7:00 – 8:30a	Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
7:15 – 8:15a	LUMINA Study Meeting	Equinox I
7:15 – 8:15a	Global Research & Outreach Working Group Meeting	TBD
8:30 – 8:50a	Opening Session: NEALS Annual Update <i>Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Medical)</i> <i>Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Jons Hopkins)</i>	Ballroom
8:50 – 10:30a	The Next Frontier in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS): Integrating Clinical Care, Research, and Lived Experience for People at Genetic Risk of ALS/FTD <i>Moderator: Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Johns Hopkins)</i>	Ballroom
8:50a	Session Introduction <i>Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Johns Hopkins)</i>	
8:55a	Pre-symptomatic ALS/FTD and disease prevention: a view from the vanguard <i>Michael Benatar, MD, PhD (University of Miami)</i>	
9:07a	Expanding presymptomatic studies to a national scale: the PREVENT ALL ALS study <i>Mark Garret, MD (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center)</i>	
9:19a	Supporting the Journey, Empowering Choice: Predictive Genetic Counseling in ALS/FTD <i>Laynie Dratch, SCM, CGC (Penn Comprehensive ALS Center)</i>	
9:31a	Building the Next Frontier: Connecting Care, Research, and Lived Experience <i>Cassandra Haddad, MSN (ALS Research Ambassador)</i>	
9:43a	Developing a care approach for individuals at genetic risk of ALS/FTD <i>Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD (Temple University)</i>	

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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DAY ONE (CONTINUED) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sol unless otherwise noted.

8:50 – 10:30a	 The Next Frontier in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS): Integrating Clinical Care, Research, and Lived Experience for People at Genetic Risk of ALS/FTD (continued) <i>Moderator: Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Johns Hopkins)</i>	Ballroom
9:55a	Racing Against the Clock: Patient Advocates as Key Architects of the Self Cure <i>Yentli Soto Albrecht, PhD (University of Pennsylvania)</i>	
10:07a	Moderated Q&A	
10:30 – 10:50a	Break SPONSORED BY 	
10:50 – 12:25p	 NEALS Affiliated Trial Session <i>Session Lead: Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Health)</i>	Ballroom
10:50a	Co-Chair Summary Roundup	
11:05a	Presentations: Learnings from the Phase 2 Study of AP-101 (AP101-02) and the Role of Weight as a Surrogate Marker of Clinical Response <i>Angela Genge, MD, FRCPC (AL-S Pharma AG)</i>	
11:20a	Update on ATLAS, a presymptomatic interventional study of tofersen in SOD1-ALS <i>Steve Garafalo, PhD (Biogen)</i>	
11:35a	LUMINA: AMX0114 ALS Study Update <i>Sabrina Paganoni, MD, PhD (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i> <i>Lauren Kett, MD, PhD (Amylyx Pharmaceuticals)</i>	
11:50a	Update on ARMOR, a First-in-Human Dose-Escalation Study of INS1202 Gene Therapy in ALS <i>Mark Stahl, MD, PhD (Insmed)</i>	
12:05p	Seamless Therapy Development in ALS <i>Merit Cudkowicz, MD, MSc (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	
12:25 – 2:00p	Lunch	(Opal Sands) Pool Event Lawn

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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DAY ONE (CONTINUED) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sol unless otherwise noted.

12:45 – 1:45p	VITALS Study Meeting	Solstice IV
12:45 – 1:45p	PIONEER-ALS Study Meeting	Equinox I
12:45 – 1:45p	HEALEY Platform Trial Study Meeting (Closed Session; Invite Only)	Solstice I & II
12:45 – 3:15p	NEALS Bulbar Symposium: Best Practices on Management of Bulbar ALS: From Evidence to Clinical Practice <i>Lead: Gary Pattee, MD (Neurology Associates, P.C.)</i>	(Opal Sands) Sand Salons
1:00 – 3:00p	PT/OT Optimizing Function Across the ALS Continuum: PT & OT Considerations for Clinical Practice <i>Leads: Stephanie Johnson, OTR/L, PhD, MHS (Augusta University), and Michele Weaver, PT, DPT, NCS (Corewell Health)</i>	(Opal Sands) Beach Salons
2:00 – 3:00p	ALL ALS Study Meeting	Equinox II & III
2:00 – 3:00p	Healey MyMatch Study Meeting (Closed Session; Invite Only)	(Opal Sands) Sea Salons
2:00 – 3:10p	 Lighting Science Talks <i>Session Leads: Science Advisory Board Co-Chairs Sami Barmada, MD, PhD (University of Michigan and Jeffrey Rothstein, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)</i>	Ballroom
2:00p	Welcome & Introductions	
2:05p	Science Presentations: 3-Minute Talks DPTX3230 Restores TDP-43 Nuclear Function Across Translational Models of ALS <i>Isaac Klein, MD, PhD (Dewpoint Therapeutics)</i> RNA processing dysregulation and fusion transcript formation in ALS <i>Ghazaleh Sadri-Vakili, PhD, MS (Mass General)</i> A Harmonized Multisite Digital TDP-43 Pathology Resource Enables Automated Quantitative Analysis Across ALS and FTD <i>Mayisha Rahman, MS (Georgetown University)</i> Bypassing the Blood-Brain Barrier: Systemic Delivery of SYT2-Targeted siSOD1 to Lower Motor Neurons Attenuates Motor Decline in SOD1-G93A Mice <i>Norihiro Yumoto, PhD (Jiksak Bioengineering)</i>	
2:17p	Group Q&A	

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DAY ONE (CONTINUED) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

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2:00 – 3:10p	 Lighting Science Talks (continued) <i>Session Leads: Science Advisory Board Co-Chairs Sami Barmada, MD, PhD (University of Michigan and Jeffrey Rothstein, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)</i>	Ballroom
2:25p	Transition	
2:28p	Clinical Presentations, Group One: 3-Minute Talks	
	ERACE (Emory Rapid Access Clinical Evaluation) 10-protein model predicts ALS from plasma with high accuracy <i>Eleanor Thomas, MD, PhD (Emory University)</i>	
	Advancement of BIIB147, an Antisense Oligonucleotide Designed to Correct STMN2 Splicing, to a First-in-Human Phase 1/2 Study in ALS <i>Colin Quinn, MD (University of Pennsylvania)</i>	
	Long-term (5 years) evaluation of tofersen in SOD1-ALS: final results from the integrated analysis of Study 101 Parts A/B, a Phase 1/2 ascending dose trial, and the open-label extension <i>Timothy Miller, MD, PhD (Washington University ALS Center)</i>	
	Propensity-Matching Analysis Indicates that RAPA-501 Autologous T Stem Cell Therapy Mediates Promising Clinical Benefits in Advanced-Stage ALS Patients <i>James Berry, MD, MPH (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at Mass General)</i>	
2:40p	Group Q&A	
2:48p	Transition	
2:51p	Clinical Presentations, Group Two: 3-Minute Talks	
	GLP-1-receptor agonist treatment is associated with shorter survival in people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and comorbid diabetes mellitus <i>Ikjae Lee, MD MSc (Columbia University)</i>	
	Healey ALS MyMatch: Program Overview and Latest Trial Updates <i>Suma Babu, MBBS, MPH (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at Mass General)</i>	

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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DAY ONE (CONTINUED) **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026**

*All meetings in Opal Sol
unless otherwise noted.*

2:00 – 3:10p



Lighting Science Talks (continued)

*Session Leads: Science Advisory Board Co-Chairs
Sami Barmada, MD, PhD (University of Michigan and
Jeffrey Rothstein, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)*

Ballroom

Clinical Presentations, Group Two (continued): 3-Minute Talks

Tim Lowrey ALS Panels: Lived experience ALS stories for health-care
students and professionals
Timothy Abeska, JD (I AM ALS Volunteer Advocate)

Real-Time Communication Restoration in ALS with a Fully Implanted
Speech Brain-Computer Interface
Nader Pouratian, MD, PhD (UT Southwestern Medical Center)

3:03p

Group Q&A

3:11p

Closing Remarks

3:15 – 3:30p

Break

3:30 – 4:30p



**Industry Roundtable: Advancing TDP43-Relevant
Therapeutic Targets**

Session Lead: Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Johns Hopkins University)

*Irina Antonijevic, MD, PhD (Trace Neuroscience)
Martin Engel, PhD (Neurizon)
Isaac Klein, MD, PhD (Dewpoint Therapeutics)
Katie Planey, PhD, MBA (Acelot)
Olga Uspenskaya, MD, PhD (VectorY Therapeutics)*

Audience Q&A

Ballroom

4:30 – 6:30p

Poster Session 1

SPONSORED BY



SHIONOGI

(Opal Sands) Ballroom

5:30 – 7:00p

*The Palliative Story Exchange (External Event for NEALS Members)
Moderators: Richard Leiter, MD, MA (The Palliative Story Exchange)
and Lisa Keefauver, MSW (The Palliative Story Exchange)*

(Opal Sands) Beach Salon

(End of day 1)

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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DAY TWO

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sol
unless otherwise noted.

7:00a – 4:15p	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
7:00 – 8:30a	Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
7:15 – 8:15a	ALSTARS Study Meeting	Equinox I
7:15 – 8:15a	PREVAiLS Study Meeting	(Opal Sands) Sand Salons
7:15 – 8:15a	CDC Informational Session: How the National ALS Registry can Support your Research <i>Session Lead: Paul Mehta, MD (CDC)</i>	Equinox II & III
8:30 – 9:30a	 Embedding the ALS Patient Journey into Clinical Development, Care Delivery, and Advocacy: A Research Ambassador & Stakeholder Panel <i>Session Lead: Michael Robinson, MD (ALS Research Ambassador)</i> <i>Mandi Bailey (ALS Research Ambassador)</i> <i>William Benjamin Nowell, PhD, MSW (Regeneron)</i> <i>John Driskell Hopkins (Hop On A Cure)</i> <i>Christina Fournier, MD (Emory University)</i>	Ballroom
9:30 – 9:50a	Break SPONSORED BY 	
9:50 – 10:50a	 A Collaborative Ecosystem for Clinical Trial Innovation <i>Session Lead: Sabrina Paganoni, MD, PhD (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Ballroom
9:55a 10:05a	<i>Erin Fleming (ProJenX)</i> <i>Suma Babu, MBBS, MPH (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	
10:15a 10:25a 10:35a	<i>Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Health)</i> <i>Robert Bowser, PhD (Barrow Neurological Institute)</i> <i>Leigh Hochberg, MD, PhD (Mass General)</i>	
10:50 – 11:50a	 Stats Corner: NFL — The Biomarker That Rocks Every Role <i>Session Lead: Lori Chibnik, PhD (MGH Biostatistics)</i>	Ballroom
10:55a 11:00a 11:05a 11:10a	<i>Eric Macklin, PhD (MGH Biostatistics)</i> <i>Jianing Wang, PhD (MGH Biostatistics)</i> <i>Giorgio Paulon, PhD (Berry Consultants)</i> <i>Peng Sun, PhD (Biogen)</i>	
11:15a	Moderated Panel Discussion and Q&A	
11:50 – 1:00p	Lunch SPONSORED BY 	(Opal Sands) Event Lawn

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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DAY TWO (CONTINUED) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sol unless otherwise noted.

12:00 – 1:00p	ARMOR Study Meeting	Equinox I
12:00 – 1:00p	Clene NIH - Expanded Access Program Meeting	TBD
12:00 – 1:00p	NEALS Biorepository Informational Session <i>Moderators: James Berry, MD, MPH (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i> <i>Ikjae Lee, MD (Columbia University)</i> <i>Nadine Bakkar, PhD (Barrow Neurological Institute)</i> <i>Katie Irwin, MD, PhD Student (Johns Hopkins University)</i> <i>Hande Ozdinler, PhD (Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine)</i> <i>Ghazaleh Sadri-Vakili, PhD, MS (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Equinox II & III
12:00 – 1:00p	Networking Lunch: Multidisciplinary Clinics: Funding Challenges and Strategic Solutions (NEALS Members)	(Opal Sands) Sand Salons; Lunch on Mezzanine
12:00 – 1:00p	Networking Lunch: Mentorship and Career Growth with Senior Researchers (NEALS Members)	(Opal Sands) Sea Salon; Lunch on Mezzanine
1:10 – 1:30p	 Co-Chair Announcement <i>Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Medical)</i> <i>Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Jons Hopkins)</i>	Ballroom
1:30 – 3:30p	 Science Symposium: AI in ALS: From Bench Insights to Bedside Impact SPONSORED BY  <i>Session Leads: Science Advisory Board Co-Chairs</i> <i>Sami Barmada, MD, PhD (University of Michigan)</i> <i>Timothy Miller, MD, PhD (Washington University ALS Center)</i> <i>Jeffrey Rothstein, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)</i>	Ballroom
1:55p	<i>Presentations:</i> Decoding ALS with AI, From Neuron to Brain Bank: Phenotypic Signatures, Mechanism, and TDP-43 Pathology at Scale <i>Steve Finkbeiner, MD, PhD (Gladstone Institutes)</i>	
2:20p	Connecting the Clues in ALS: An Investigation Across Datasets <i>Juro Gottweis (Independent Researcher)</i> <i>Luka Rimanic, PhD (Google)</i>	
2:45p	Early Identification of ALS Using Advanced Machine Learning and Real-World Data <i>(Virtual) Vahid Esmaeili, PhD (Volvo Global)</i> <i>(Virtual) Christophe Lo Bianco, PhD (Novartis)</i>	

2026 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

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DAY TWO (CONTINUED) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

All meetings in Opal Sol unless otherwise noted.

Scientific Symposium: AI in ALS: From Bench Insights to Bedside **Ballroom**

Impact (continued)

Session Leads: Science Advisory Board Co-Chairs

Sami Barmada, MD, PhD (University of Michigan)

Timothy Miller, MD, PhD (Washington University ALS Center)

Jeffrey Rothstein, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)

3:10p

Presentations:

SAVA AI: A Collaborative Platform Connecting Clinicians, Sites, Sponsors, and Patients to Enable Real-Time Clinical Trial Matching

Natalia Luchkina, PhD (EverythingALS) and Christian Rubio, MBA (EverythingALS)

3:20p

A Variant-Anchored, Multi-Agent AI Method for Designing RNA-Targeting Strategies in TDP-43 Proteinopathy: A Worked Example in TARDBP F231V

Richard Broadbent (InnerVara Nexus AI Solutions)

3:30 – 3:50p

Break

3:50 – 4:50p

Hot Topic Session: Causal Inference in ALS: What are the Data for Environmental Exposures **Ballroom**

Session Lead: Jonathan Glass, MD (Emory University)

Stephen Goutman, MD, MS, FAAN (University of Michigan)

Björn E. Oskarsson, MD (Mayo Clinic)

Marc Weisskopf, PhD, ScD (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)

4:50 – 6:30p

Poster Session 2

(Opal Sands) Ballroom

6:30 – 6:45p

Group Photo

(Opal Sands) Lobby

6:45 – 9:00p

Annual Beachside Dinner

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(Opal Sands) Pool Event Lawn

(End of day 2)

2025 ANNUAL NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

*Agenda subject to change

DAY THREE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

*All meetings in Opal Sol
unless otherwise noted.*

7:00a – 12:30p	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
7:00 – 8:30a	Breakfast	Ballroom Foyer
7:15 – 8:15a	<i>FUNCTION ALS Study Meeting</i>	<i>Equinox II</i>
7:15 – 8:15a	<i>LINK Study Meeting</i>	<i>Equinox III</i>
8:30 – 9:30a	 Lessons from Novel Therapies: Beyond ALS <i>Session Lead: Nicholas Maragakis, MD (Johns Hopkins University)</i> Title TBD <i>Kevin Flanigan, MD (Ohio State University)</i> Evolving treatments for SMA: Insights for ALS <i>Charlotte Sumner, MD (Johns Hopkins University)</i>	Ballroom
9:30 – 10:15a	 The Power of Partnership: Updates from the NEALS ALS Organizations Forum <i>Session Lead: Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Medical)</i> <i>Kuldip Dave, PhD (The ALS Association)</i> <i>Kristen Cocoman (ALS United)</i> <i>Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD (ALS Hope Foundation)</i>	Ballroom
10:15 – 10:30a	Break	
10:30 – 10:50a	 Awards <i>Session Lead: Jinsy Andrews, MD, MSc (NYU Langone Medical)</i> The Gupta Family Endowed Prize for Innovation in ALS Care <i>Presented by: Merit Cudkowicz, MD, MSc (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i> Drs. Ayeez and Shelena Lalji & Family Student Scholar Award for Repair and Regenerative Mechanisms in ALS <i>Presented by: Merit Cudkowicz, MD, MSc (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)</i>	Ballroom

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DAY THREE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

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10:50 – 11:05a



Abstract Awards

Session Lead: Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD (Temple University)

Ballroom

Basic Science Award

Presented by: Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD (Temple University)

Clinical Investigation Award

Presented by: Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD (Temple University)

Upper Motor Neuron Achievement Awards

Presented by: Christine Hendrickson, ARNP (Spastic Paraplegia Foundation Ambassador)

11:05 – 12:50p



Platform Presentations

Session Lead: Terry Heiman-Patterson, MD (Temple University)

Ballroom

11:10a

Novel Small Molecule is First-in-Class to Bind to FUS and Reverse Loss and Gain of Function

Baerbel Rohrer, PhD (Medical University of South Carolina)

11:25a

From PARADIGM to PARAGON: Converging Clinical and Biomarker Findings Informing Phase 3 Development of PrimeC

Merit Cudkowicz, MD, MSc (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)

11:40a

ACE-2223, a first-in-class oral small molecule for sporadic ALS, treats both gain- and loss-of-function TDP-43 pathology, extends survival and decreases NfL in ALS mouse models and has begun human safety studies

Mark Forman, MD, PhD (Acelot)

11:55a

Genome-wide screening of nuclear import modulation in human neurons identifies genetic pathways that sustain nuclear TDP-43: ALS and beyond

Jeffrey Rothstein, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)

12:10p

Metformin shows favorable safety and reduces RAN proteins, markers of neurodegeneration (NfL) and neuroinflammation in C9orf72 ALS patients in a phase II open-label clinical trial

Laura Ranum, PhD (University of Florida)

12:25p

EPISOD1: A Phase 1/2, Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Exploratory Efficacy of Intrathecally Administered Gene Therapy AMT-162 in Patients with SOD1 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (SOD1-ALS)

James Berry, MD, MPH (Sean M. Healey & AMG Center for ALS at MGH)

12:40p

Audience Q&A

2026 ANNUAL

NEALS MEETING AGENDA*

**Agenda subject to change*

DAY THREE

(CONTINUED)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

*All meetings in Opal Sol
unless otherwise noted.*

12:50 – 2:00p	Lunch	Ballroom Foyer
1:10 – 2:10p	ALS Organizations Forum (Closed Session)	Equinox II & III

(End of day 3)