The Emory ALS Center is designed and dedicated to performing cutting edge research while providing comprehensive care for people and families with ALS and related motor neuron diseases. Emory is recognized nationally as an ALS referral center by both the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) and the ALS Association. Since its initiation in 1997, the has grown to be one of the premier centers for ALS care in the United States. In addition, Emory has been selected by the MDA as one of five national centers as part of a Clinical Research Network to speed and support ALS research.

“Research in my laboratory focuses on understanding the biology of ALS, with the goal of developing new approaches to prevention and treatment of ALS. My research team includes those occupied specifically on clinical trials with ALS patients, and investigators working in the basic science laboratory on animal and cellular models of the disease.

Clinically, we are active participants in the major clinical trials in ALS, and we are the only center in the U.S. performing spinal cord injections of stem cells for patients with ALS. In the laboratory my work has focused particularly on the specific connection between the nerve and muscle (“neuromuscular junction”), working on the hypothesis that disconnection may be an early, and possibly reversible, process that causes weakness in ALS.

The Emory ALS Center is also a part of the Emory Center for Neurodegenerative Disease, where clinicians and scientists studying the spectrum of neurodegenerative diseases (e.g. Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Huntington’s diseases), combine our efforts to find commonalities in disease mechanisms that will advance our understanding of these disorders.

The ability to deliver expert clinical care in an environment rich with opportunities for clinical and basic science research is what gets me up in the morning. I believe that this approach is the best way to find answers to the difficult questions of causes and treatments for ALS, while focusing on the most important task of taking care of people and families with ALS.”

--Jonathan Glass, MD
Director of Emory ALS Center