

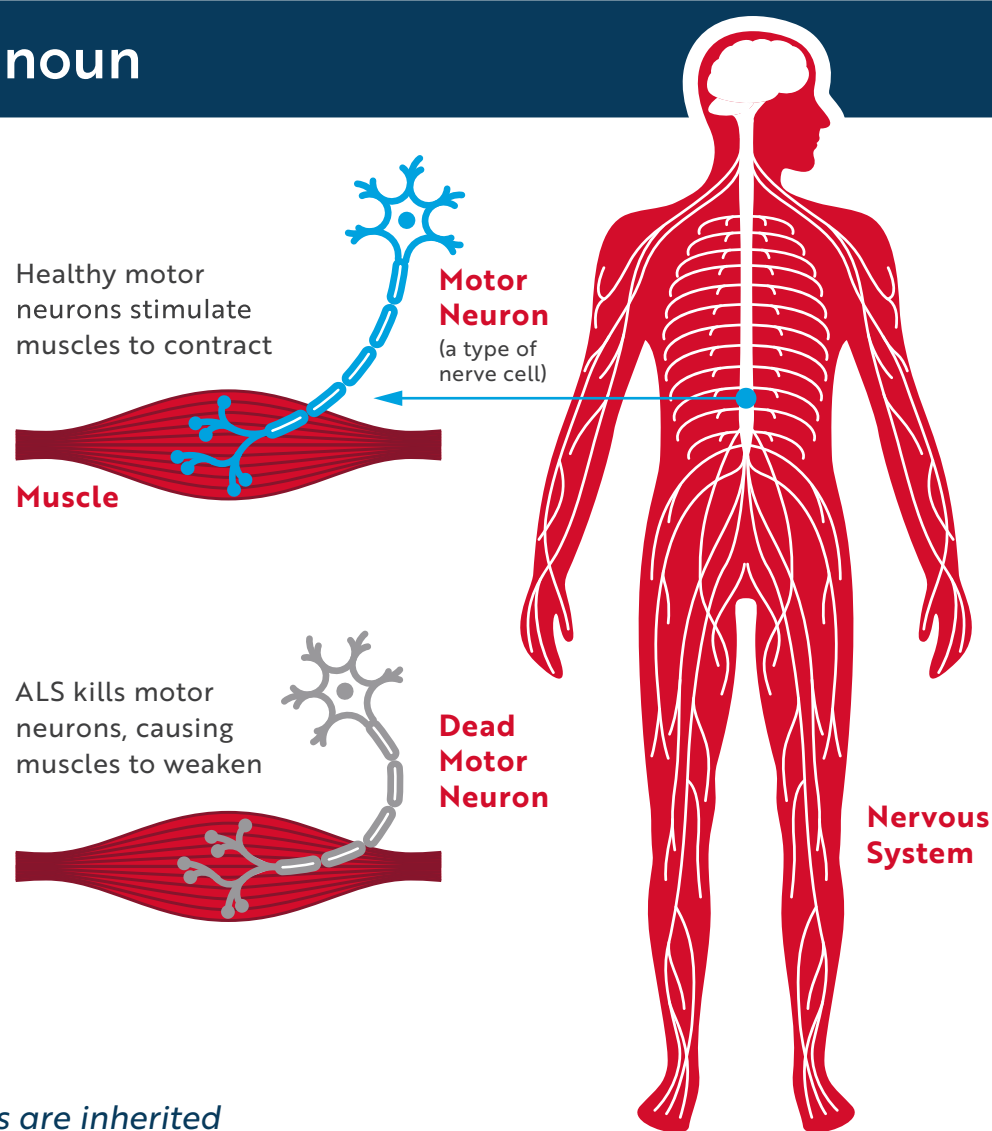
# WHAT IS ALS?

a·myo·tro·phic lateral sclerosis | noun

**ALS IS A PROGRESSIVE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE THAT AFFECTS NERVE CELLS IN THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD.**


ALS usually strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and approximately 20,000 people in the U.S. have the disease at any given time.

Although there is not yet a cure or treatment that halts ALS, scientists we fund through our global research program have made significant progress in understanding what causes ALS. But their work is not done. Together, we work toward a cure.





## FACTS ABOUT ALS

 **5,000+** people are diagnosed per year

 **10%** of cases are inherited through a mutated gene

 **2-5 YEARS** is the average life expectancy

 Every **90 MINUTES** someone is diagnosed and someone passes away

 **90%** of cases occur without family history



## SYMPTOMS

**Progressive loss of muscle control**

ALS gradually prohibits the ability to:

- Speak
- Swallow
- Walk
- Grasp objects
- Move
- Breathe



## DIAGNOSIS

**Difficult to diagnose**

- ALS is often diagnosed by ruling out other diseases, which may take months or years



## MILITARY

**Veterans are 2x as likely to get ALS**

- ALS affects veterans who served in peacetime and war
- ALS impacts veterans, regardless of the branch of service or the war they served in

 **\$250,000** is the estimated out-of-pocket cost for caring for a person with ALS

 Only **4 DRUGS** are currently approved by the U.S. FDA to treat ALS (Riluzole, Nuedexta, Radicava, and Tiglutik)

 **\$2 BILLION** is the estimated cost to develop a drug to slow or stop the progression of ALS

 There is **NO CURE** for ALS

You can help change the facts by donating to The ALS Association.