

Tonight's Agenda

6:00 pm | Welcome Reception and Registration
Arrival, check-in, networking, and refreshments

6:50 pm | Opening Remarks
Julie M. Sharpe, President and CEO

7:00 pm | Introduction of Dr. Andrews
Madhu (Mona) Soni, MD, FAAN

**7:10 pm | A New Frontier for ALS:
A Clinical Trials Update & Future Directions**
Jinsy A. Andrews, MD, MSc, FAAN

7:50 pm | Q&A with Dr. Andrews

8:00 pm | Introduction of Dr. Loeb
Madhu (Mona) Soni, MD, FAAN

**8:05 pm | Slowing or Halting ALS
Progression by Blocking Nerve
Injury-Induced Neuroinflammation**
Jeffrey A. Loeb, MD, PhD

8:25 pm | Q&A with Dr. Loeb

8:30 pm | Introduction of Dr. Ozlinder
Madhu (Mona) Soni, MD, FAAN

**8:35 pm | Building Effective Therapies for
ALS Requires Understanding Why Motor
Neurons are Upset**
Hande Ozdinler, PhD

8:55 pm | Q&A with Dr. Ozlinder

**9:00 pm | The Role of Aurora B Kinase
in the Development of
Neuron Dysfunction in ALS**
Sarah Martin

9:10 pm | Q&A with Sarah

9:15 pm | Seeds of Hope Award Presentation
Raymond P. Roos, MD

9:25 pm | Closing Remarks

9:30 pm | End of Program

Help Us Amplify Your Research Efforts

ALS United Greater Chicago is committed to supporting and promoting the groundbreaking work of our local research community. To better understand your projects and discover how we can collaborate, we kindly ask you to complete a brief survey.

This survey will capture key details such as:

- Your Name & Institution
- Project Name & Description
- Principal Investigator
- Contact Information

Your participation will enable us to connect, amplify, and potentially offer support for your valuable work. Scan the QR code below to complete the survey.



5315 N Clark St, #650
Chicago, IL 60640
alsunitedchicago.org
info@alsunitedchicago.org
312-932-0000

**Thank you for your valuable
contributions to our local
ALS community.**



Welcome to the inaugural
United to Discover Dinner
featuring Keynote Speaker
**Jinsy A. Andrews,
MD, MSc, FAAN**



SEPT
WEDNESDAY **25** 6:00-9:30 PM
2024

The Drake Hotel
Oakbrook Terrace, IL



Serving our ALS community of Chicagoland,
Northern Illinois, Central Illinois, & part of
Northwest Indiana for twenty years.

About Our Speakers

Dr. Madhu (Mona) Soni, MD, FAAN

is Associate Professor and Senior Attending Neurologist in the Department of Neurological Sciences at Rush University Medical Center. She graduated from Northwestern Medical School and completed her internship, residency training and clinical neurophysiology fellowship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago.



Dr. Soni is board certified in neurology, clinical neurophysiology and neuromuscular medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. She is chief of the Rush Division of Neuromuscular Medicine and director of their multidisciplinary ALS Clinic.

Under her leadership, the Rush ALS Clinic has grown over the past ten years from a monthly half day clinic to a bimonthly full day clinic and has served as a model to train staff at other academic centers in the city. Dr. Soni has been instrumental in partnering with ALS United Greater Chicago, ALS United, and the Northeast ALS Consortium to bring excellent clinical care and research opportunities, respectively, to patients living with ALS.

Jinsy A. Andrews, MD, MSc, FAAN

is the Director of Neuromuscular Clinical Trials and Associate Professor of Neurology at Columbia University Medical Center. In addition to overseeing neuromuscular clinical trials, she cares for people with neuromuscular disorders with a specific focus in ALS.



Dr. Andrews has experience conducting human clinical trials in neuromuscular disorders from phase 1 to phase 3 in both academic and industry settings. Her focus has been on clinical trial design and outcomes.

She is currently the elected co-chair of the Northeast ALS Consortium (NEALS), an ALS clinical trial consortium of over 150 international specialty centers, an appointed Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology (FAAN) and the Fellow of the American Neurological Association (FANA).

Dr. Andrews earned her Interdepartmental bachelor's degree in music and biology from Union College, MD from Albany Medical College and MSc in Biostatistics (Patient Oriented Research) from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. She completed Neurology residency training at the University of Connecticut and fellowship in ALS/Neuromuscular disease and Clinical Neurophysiology at Columbia University.

She is board certified in Neurology, Neuromuscular Disease and Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

Jeffrey A. Loeb, MD, PhD

is a practicing neurologist, epileptologist and neuroscientist who currently holds the John S. Garvin Chair, Professor and Head of the Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation. He received his A.B. in Chemistry, M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.



After completing a residency in Neurology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, he joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School where he also had fellowship training in epilepsy at Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital.

Dr. Loeb conducted postdoctoral work in the Department of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School with Dr. Gerald Fischbach where he became interested in how understanding early neural development can teach us what goes wrong in human disease and suggest new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases including ALS and Alzheimer's disease.

His work in epilepsy and ALS has led to a one-of-a-kind large-scale, systems biology platform that links human brain tissues to genes, molecules, and cells to detailed clinical aspects.

Dr. Loeb is director of the University of Illinois NeuroRepository, Chief Clinical Strategist for the Sturge-Weber Foundation, and is actively engaged in commercialization of many of the treatments and technologies he has developed.

Hande Ozdinler, PhD

was trained in the fields of molecular biology and genetics, biotechnology, cell biology, anatomy, and neuroscience. She was awarded with one of the first Harvard Center for Nervous System Repair (HCNR) fellowships and was recruited to Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine to be the founding director of the first Upper Motor Neuron research Laboratory in the country.



Dr. Ozdinler, currently an Associate Professor of Neurology, continues to reveal the cellular and molecular basis of upper motor neuron vulnerability and degeneration in ALS. Her research is based on collaborative efforts that are innovative and translational. Especially her focus on revealing the basis of disease mechanisms and developing the cell-based and mechanism-focused drug discovery efforts in ALS have received much attention. Her research is funded by NIH, NIA, DoD, numerous foundations and philanthropy.

In addition to being a scientist, Dr. Ozdinler is also the inventor of OzdinART – a new form of painting – an international press member, a mother, and a desperate cook.

Sarah Martin

has been a volunteer with ALS United Chicago since 2010. She is currently a 4th year PhD candidate in Dr. Scott Brady's lab at the UIC College of Medicine. Her research focuses on understanding the mechanisms underlying C9orf72-associated neurodegeneration.

