**ALS: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

Motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord degenerate in ALS, which in turn leads to loss of muscle function.

There is no cure. ALS is always fatal.

By 2040, ALS incidence is predicted to increase worldwide by 70%.

Who Gets It

Veterans have 2x the incidence of ALS compared to others. The Midwest has the highest prevalence of ALS in the US and rates in Michigan almost doubled over 10 years.

Who Gets It

ALS / Immune System

**Neutrophils:** Higher levels of these immune cells associate with rapid ALS progression.

**CD4 T Cells:** These cells guide other types of immune cells and large decreases in their numbers is associated with disease progression.

**NK Cells:** Cells that clean out diseased or dead cells in healthy people. In ALS patients, they become dysregulated and begin to attack healthy motor neurons.

Life expectancy is 2 to 4 years.

ALS risk and ALS survival are affected by persistent organic pollutants, like pesticides.