

# 2021 Forbes Norris ALS Center NEWS



Fall 2021

Dear Norris Center Family,

Just as you all do, we change the way we work when circumstances change. Perhaps because we were already master modifiers, we have found a bright silver lining to the challenges the pandemic has posed to medical care. Our swift and thorough turn to telemedicine has in fact enabled us to reach families with ALS more frequently than we could before the pandemic, and to reach patients in a larger geographic area than before.

In addition, we've continued to enroll patients in important clinical trials, and our clinical staff is leading innovations in patient care, such as speech pathologist Amy Roman's recent study showing that patients can be trained remotely in the use of speech-generating devices.

I am tremendously proud of the way we center the patient experience in our work, and have continued to do so throughout the uncertainty that has come in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As I do every year at this time, **I'm inviting you to invest in our work (most of which is not covered by insurance)** to improve the quality of life for ALS patients. You can give **online** at [cpmc.org/givenow-als](https://cpmc.org/givenow-als), or use the enclosed envelope. To explore **other types of gifts**, contact Chuck Gregory, CPMC Foundation Neurosciences Campaign Director, at [gregoc@sutterhealth.org](mailto:gregoc@sutterhealth.org) or 415-600-2490.

Yours in gratitude,

Dee Holden Norris, R.N.

We've included some photos of and quotes from patients we've featured in past newsletters, because it always inspires us to watch our patients continue to lead their rich lives. We hope these snippets will inspire you too.



**Ron Malone riding his cutting horse.**

(photo courtesy: Circle Oak Equine)

“

My last competition was in October of 2015, but before I had to quit, I was the cutting horse champion of the world. I got to achieve my dream.” – Ron Malone



Sandy Morris (center right) with her husband (top right) and her three children. Morris has been working since her diagnosis with the organization I AM ALS to ensure that clinical trials for potential new ALS treatments are designed “with humans in mind, not zebra fish.” (photo courtesy: Morris family)



Ed Hoffman, Dr. Jon Katz, and Dolly Sandoval at a 2017 event in Cupertino, supporting the Norris Center.



Grateful patient, Marshall Mathews (far left) with his family.



Hopeful patient, Vashti Ross, is enrolled in a Phase 3 clinical trial of a new treatment for ALS through the Forbes Norris Center.

---

“ I am fortunate to have lived my life fully. Some people haven't.” – Marshall Mathews, 2002

---