

## **The Angel Fund contributes \$1 million for ALS research at UMass Medical School in 2019**

(Wakefield, MA)- The Angel Fund for ALS Research, a 501 (c) 3 charity that raises funds for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research, donated an additional \$1 million in 2019 in support of research performed by Robert H. Brown Jr., DPhil, MD at UMass Medical School.

Since its inception in 1997, the Angel Fund has contributed nearly \$8 million to Dr. Brown's ALS research. During the previous three years alone, the Angel Fund has donated close to \$3 million to Dr. Brown and his research team.

“Each dollar raised by The Angel Fund is important, not only because of the research it helps to fund, but also because historically more than 90% of all money we raise goes to Dr. Brown,” Angel Fund president Rich Kennedy said. “In 2018, total research expenditures incurred were 92% of The Angel Fund's total expenditures, with the remaining 8% attributable to administrative costs.”

This is also important, according to Kennedy, because The Angel Fund support provides Dr. Brown discretionary monies not available to him via other funding avenues.

“We know how important that is to Dr. Brown's research and its success,” Kennedy added. “We can do this because of the tremendous support of our donors, our supporters and our board. Without research, there is no cure.”

ALS is a progressive, neurodegenerative disorder affecting the motor neurons in the central nervous system. The cause of most cases of ALS is not known. Approximately 10 percent of cases are inherited. Though investigators at UMMS and elsewhere have identified several genes shown to cause inherited or familial ALS, almost 50 percent of these cases have an unknown genetic cause. There are no significant treatments for the disease.

Kennedy was himself diagnosed with ALS in 2016 at the age of 56. ALS has been a part of his family since 1989 when the disease claimed his father, followed by his youngest brother Jimmy, who was diagnosed several years later and died from ALS at the age of 31. His brother Jake was diagnosed in late 2019.

“The Angel Fund for ALS Research has been dedicated mission to support Dr. Brown’s groundbreaking research for more than 20 years,” Kennedy continued. “Tremendous progress has been made in the last few years, and I am confident that The Angel Fund has been a factor in moving this research forward through the discretionary funding that we provide.”

“At a time when funding is so crucial, we are pleased to honor our commitment to Dr. Brown’s research with our most recent donation. We can do so, because we are fortunate to have supporters that care so much and help us by hosting events, participating in the events, donating and volunteering. All for our mission– to find a treatment and cure for ALS.”

For more information about The Angel Fund for ALS Research go to [www.theangelfund.org](http://www.theangelfund.org) or call 781-245-7070.

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Many associated with The Angel Fund for ALS Research have endured the heartbreak of seeing their loved one live with ALS and lose their battle to this horrific disease. They have made a commitment to support Dr. Brown and his researchers until a cure is found, A renowned ALS researcher, Dr. Brown is the Leo P. and Theresa M. LaChance Chair in Medical Research; professor of neurology; and director of the Program in Neurotherapeutics at UMass Medical.

The Angel Fund for ALS Research is an independent nonprofit charity and is located in Wakefield, MA.