JPND research
EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research

ONWebDUALS

**ONTology-based Web Database for
Understanding Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a rapidly progressive neurodegenerative disease which is characterized by limb weakness, speaking and swallowing impairment and respiratory insufficiency, generally leading to death after 2-3 years of disease progression.

Although advances in understanding ALS have been achieved in recent years, there is incomplete information on the potential association between risk factors, genetic mutations, clinical features and survival. For example the role of risk factors is likely to be different for different mutations.

To investigate this important interplay we aim to build a standardized database, which should be implemented in the form of a computer system, in order to permit the use of advanced methods of analysis able to recognize relevant associations. This European ALS web-database is intended to include a very large population of patients, derived from the consortium participants and from other European centers by external collaboration, and through interaction with patients' organizations.
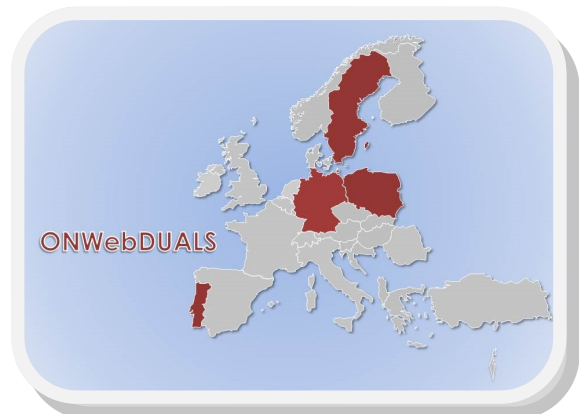
With the derived information, it will be possible to suggest specific preventive strategies, to customize precise research studies and to tailor therapeutic trials to particular populations to develop individualized treatment strategies. The expected major implication is a decrease in the social impact of this disorder in Europe.

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Coordinator:	Mamede de Carvalho
	T: +351 21799 94 35
	E: mamedealves@fm.ul.pt

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Project Partners:

COORDINATOR I MAMEDE DE CARVALHO

Mamede de Carvalho - Instituto de Medicina Molecular-Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

Magdalena Kuzma-Kozakiewicz, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Maria Piotrkiewicz,- Nałęcz Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland (IBIB)

Julian Grosskreutz, University Hospital Jena, Jena, Germany

Peter Andersen - Institute of Pharmacology and Clinical Neuroscience, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden.

Susanne Petri, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany

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