

Emory ALS Center Receives Donation From Family of Former Patient

Jonathan Glass, MD, director of the Emory ALS Center and professor of neurology and pathology at Emory University School of Medicine, recently received a donation from the family of former patient Ted Harada. The family received the funds when Harada was posthumously awarded the 2016 Stem Cell Person of Year Award by Paul Knoepfler, MD, professor of cell biology and human anatomy at UC Davis School of Medicine.

The annual award is given to a person who is ‘an outside-the-box risk taker who has made a positive impact in the world of stem cells and Ted fit the bill perfectly’, according to Knoepfler.

Harada’s wife, Michelle, came to Emory to present the check to Glass and some of his staff in the hopes that it will help continue the research being done to find a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Harada, who had been diagnosed with ALS in 2010, was a clinical research participant in an Emory clinical trial in which doctors injected neural stem cells directly into his spinal cord. His unprecedented results appeared to reverse his symptoms and he became a champion for laws that would allow patients with terminal illness to get access to experimental drugs and treatments that had passed safety testing but were not yet FDA approved. His efforts in Georgia were successful when the Georgia Right to Try Act was signed into law in May 2016. Harada passed away in October 2016 from brain cancer.



L to R: Meraida Polak, Jonathan Glass, MD, Michelle Herada, Jane Bordeaux