

## Dedication

One sunny day last summer, Greg received an urgent call from a dear friend, colleague and fellow neuromuscular researcher, Dr. Lisa Krivickas. She proceeded to tell him that she had hereditary ALS attributed to an AV4 mutation in the superoxide dismutase 1 gene, which she had inherited from her mother. We had all known for years that Lisa's mother had died from ALS but had always assumed that her form was sporadic.

Greg has known Lisa for nearly 20 years, first meeting her when he was junior faculty at University of California, Davis. She had come out to do an acting internship with us and his first impression was that she was an absolute dynamo from Harvard Medical School whose numerical IQ was likely more than he could bench press. They tried hard to recruit her but she ultimately chose to train at Kessler in New Jersey. However, in that short time they became very good friends, initially because they both shared a headstrong determination to do research in neuromuscular disease, something not terribly common in our field of rehabilitation medicine. Over the years they began to do collaborative projects. When Michael came out to the University of Washington, Greg quickly introduced him to Lisa as well. Now the three of us have collaborated numerous times and co-authored many publications. We tried hard to recruit her to the University of Washington several years back, and she almost agreed but her husband Joe couldn't find a high tech job in the post Microsoft boom years.

Lisa's career has been marked by continuous production of top-notch, cutting-edge, basic science and clinical research. It is widely accepted that she is one of the brightest rising stars in our field of Rehabilitation Medicine. As the three of us have worked on so many projects over the years, we have always had the mind set that this would be the case our entire career. There would always be Lisa, our friend from Harvard, our colleague, co-author, fellow researcher and ALS clinician.

Now we struggle to even comprehend why or how this could even happen. Over the past few months, we have had many deep conversations, struggling with the age-old question of "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Indeed, that is one of the most difficult questions all of us struggle with as we see our ALS patients. Stop. Think. Have you ever seen a person with ALS who was mean or somehow deserved the disease? Personally, in almost 20 years of doing this, and God knows how many ALS patients,

we have never seen one. In fact they uniformly seem to be the kindest, warmest souls.

Thus, it is with a mixture of joy and sadness, hope and love, compassion, and mostly a deep, heartfelt respect, that we dedicate this book to our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Lisa Krivickas.

Lisa, you continue to inspire us, and are now teaching us all not only how to diagnose and treat ALS, but how to live with it as well. Through your inspiration, it is our sincere hope that all of us will become kinder, more compassionate and caring physicians, enduring on to treat not only the body, but the heart and spirit of our ALS patients.

Respectfully,

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