

# About the Blazeman Foundation

Born and raised in southern New England, Jonathan Blais ("The Blazeman") had always been an elite athlete and multi-sport competitor. Given a death sentence in the form of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease) in 2005, Jon accepted his diagnosis and decided to do incredible things with it. He began waging a personal War on ALS from the beginning. This was his way of dealing with it; this is how he lived out his days... fighting for research and raising awareness. The Blazeman Foundation for ALS, a not-for-profit 501c3 was established by Jon Blais. Today, the Foundation is led by his parents, Mary Ann and Bob Blais who carry out the mission. The mission of the foundation is Jon's legacy. And it can be yours, too.

The gift of tissue donation for ALS is vital for the research that will help advance treatments and hopefully, someday find a cure

*"...so others may live."*



## Blazeman Foundation for ALS

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"Keyword Blazeman"



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
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## The NICHD Brain and Tissue Bank University of Maryland School of Medicine

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btbumab@umaryland.edu

<http://btbankfamily.org>

Click on: Blazeman Foundation for ALS

# Tissue Donation for ALS Research

*"...so others may live."*



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# Research relies on tissue donation

Research is the only weapon in the war on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). And tissue samples are vital to that research. The gift of human tissue at the time of death by people of all ages, especially those afflicted with ALS, is the most precious resource on which medical researchers depend to look for new treatments and cures. Human tissues, particularly the brain and spinal cord, are what ALS researchers need most.

The Blazeman Foundation for ALS has partnered with the University of Maryland School of Medicine's NICHD Brain and Tissue Bank to help raise awareness of the need for essential tissue donations. The Brain and Tissue Bank provides bona fide research scientists with samples without bias or preference. A joint effort by all groups is needed to overcome the problem of the limited supply of human tissue for ALS research.



Thousands of individuals have already registered with the Bank to become tissue donors for many different disorders. The same is needed for ALS research. Consider the facts about tissue donation:

- The process is easy
- Tissue donation is accepted by most major religions
- All additional costs incurred by the donation are covered by the Brain and Tissue Bank underwritten, in part, by the Blazeman Foundation for ALS
- The procedure to recover tissue does not interfere with a traditional funeral service
- You can withdraw your registration at any time if you change your mind

Donating tissue for ALS medical research is an important and deeply personal decision. For some, the decision may be difficult. For others, it can be a satisfying feeling knowing that you played a vital role in the research that will advance our understanding for treatments and, someday, a cure for ALS. Proper planning can help ensure that wishes are accounted for and honored at the time of your or a loved one's passing.

*A donor registry has been established. Please consider pre-registering at the donor bank online at <http://btbankfamily.org> and clicking on the tab "Blazeman Foundation for ALS" for registration information or call 1-800-847-1539.*

You've read this far, so you've already taken the first step by thinking about tissue donation and whether it is right for you and your family. For more details or to make arrangements for tissue donation please follow-up with Mary Ann Blais, Jon's mother, or the University of Maryland School of Medicine's NICHD Brain and Tissue Bank directly at their contact information listed on the back panel of this brochure. The decision to donate is best made in advance rather than at an emotional moment of crisis.

You may also pre-register at the donor bank on line at online at <http://btbankfamily.org> and clicking on the tab "Blazeman Foundation for ALS".

Should you have any questions, at any time, even after you have registered, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember, you can withdraw your registration at any time if you change your mind in the future.

