Brandeis University

Blazeman Foundation for ALS research postdoctoral fellow Dr. Mugdha Deshpande, working in the lab of Dr. Avital Rodal at Brandeis University, has published the first results of her Blazeman-funded work. The article, published in the journal, 'Molecular Biology of the Cell', summarizes Dr. Deshpande and colleagues' work that shows that in the nerve cells of fruit flies carrying a human gene linked to ALS, growth factor signals are sorted to the wrong compartment or "vesicle", and the vesicles carrying the signals move too rapidly. By tweaking the trafficking machinery, they could restore the growth signals and improve the crawling of fly larvae. The paper will be highlighted in the American Society for Cell Biology Newsletter. This work has also been covered by BrandeisNOW.

The article can be found at:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/306266884_Role_of_BMP_receptor_traffic_in_synaptic_growth_defects_in_an_ALS_model

Link for the BrandeisNOW article:
http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2016/august/ALS-vesicles-rodal.html