



PRESS RELEASE

TEAM CHRIS COMBS ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL HOPE GALA TO DEFEAT ALS Proceeds To Fund Critical Project ALS Research

Following a year of unprecedented ALS research and fundraising, Team Chris Combs will hold its second annual *Hope Gala to Defeat ALS* on Friday, September 29, 2017 at the Umstead Hotel in Cary, NC. Last year's inaugural Hope Gala raised \$1 million, and was the largest fundraising event in the history of the acclaimed venue. Proceeds raised at the first event were directed to the immediate expansion of the Project ALS Pre-Clinical Core at Columbia University's Motor Neuron Center. This year's gala predicts even larger success, and is crucial to next efforts to build upon this aggressive drug-testing initiative.

Led by Chris Combs and his wife, Gena, Team Chris Combs decided to partner with Project ALS when Chris, father of three, and former first baseman and pitcher for the North Carolina State Wolfpack and Pittsburgh Pirates, was diagnosed with ALS in 2016.

"We are so thankful to have met the amazing Project ALS team and are forever grateful for everything they are doing to advance treatments for a world without ALS," said Gena Combs. "They have given us support, guidance and hope during this ALS journey."

Directed by Drs. Serge Przedborski and Hynek Wichterle, the Project ALS Pre-Clinical Core – the first of its kind-systematically screens potential therapies in a wide range of ALS models under one roof, before delivering the most promising of them to human trial. The facility collaborates multiple laboratories, research institutions, and pharmaceutical companies. The overall goal: a thorough, responsible, fast-track selection process of FDA approved drugs for their potential efficacy in ALS. Additionally, the Project ALS Pre-Clinical Core is poised to pursue longer term efforts utilizing in-house chemistry to maximize the potential of helpful molecules and promising compounds.

"Chris Combs and his wife Gena are leading an unparalleled charge in the fight against ALS," said Valerie Estess, Project ALS director of research. "Their laser focus on bringing promising therapeutic targets to the clinic as fast as possible is accelerating the pace of ALS drug discovery. The Core is already interrogating four new drug candidates. We aim to get answers for patients faster."

Tickets to the event are not available at this time. However, the gala is currently seeking event sponsors. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring the 2017 Hope Gala, please email contact@teamchriscombs.org for more information. Ticket packages and room accommodations will be reserved for all sponsors. This intimate black-tie gala will feature a cocktail reception, as well as a live auction, silent auction and raffle.

For general event information, please email: contact@teamchriscombs.org

To purchase sponsorships please contact :
Mike Becker (919-345-8336 | mbecker@plexuscap.com),
Tripp Lloyd (919-369-7318 | tripployd@loydbuilders.com), or
Chris Combs (919-819-2222 | chris.combs@wolfpackclub.com)

For press and research information, please contact: Laura Nicholas at laura@projectals.org or 212-420-7382.

Project ALS is a non-profit 501(c)3 that identifies and funds the most promising scientific research that will lead to the first effective treatments and a cure for ALS.

ALS is a brain disease that is closely related to Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Huntington's. Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS targets brain cells called motor neurons. Motor neurons send messages from the brain to muscles throughout the body. In ALS, as motor neurons weaken and die, a person progressively loses the ability to walk, speak, swallow, and breathe. ALS affects adults of all ages, from teens to seniors.



2017 HOPE GALA INFORMATION

GENERAL EVENT INFO:

For the second year in a row the Hope Gala to defeat ALS will be an intimate black-tie gala held at The Umstead in Cary, NC. It will take place on Friday, September 29th, and will feature a cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, and a raffle. Time is to be announced. All of the proceeds from the event will go directly towards critical Project ALS research. Project ALS is a non-profit 501(c)3 that identifies and funds the most promising scientific research that will lead to the first effective treatments and a cure for ALS.

TICKETS:

Tickets to the event are not available at this time. However, we are actively signing on event sponsors. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring the 2017 Hope Gala, please pass this packet of information along to them. Ticket packages and rooming accommodations will be reserved for all sponsors.

SPONSORSHIPS:

Information on sponsorship levels can be found in this packet of information.

First access to event tickets and room accommodations will be made available to event sponsors. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring the Hope Gala to defeat ALS, please contact

Mike Becker (919-345-8336 | mbecker@plexuscap.com),

Tripp Lloyd: (919-369-7318 | tripployd@loydbuilders.com), or

Chris Combs (919-819-2222 | chris.combs@wolfpackclub.com) to reserve and/or purchase your sponsorship.

To secure your sponsorship, please follow these steps:

1. Complete sponsor form: <https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbwfSF2r3mi4qcOBa0XEjNXhDw9WYvNKjYxOl3ORpHxjpUFzDos/exec>
2. Submit Payment:

To Pay Online, please visit: <https://one.bidpal.net/tcchopegala2017/welcome>

To Pay by Check, please make all checks payable to Project ALS with "Team Chris Combs" in the memo line. Please mail checks to Team Chris Combs;

Attn: Hope Gala Sponsorships; PO Box 6586 Raleigh, NC 27628

DONATIONS:

We are graciously accepting donations for our live auction, silent auction and raffle. If you'd like to donate an item/service or are interested in helping us get donations, please contact Glenn Veasey at glennveasey@outlook.com.

VOLUNTEERS:

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with the 2017 Hope Gala to defeat ALS, please email Media Hooks at mediahooks@wolfpackclub.com.

CONTACT:

For general event information, please email: contact@teamchriscombs.org

For press and research information, please contact: Laura Nicholas at laura@projectals.org or 212-420-7382.



2017 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

DIAMOND..... \$50,000

- **Custom Creative Initiative:** work with The Hope Gala Steering Committee to design and host a custom, exclusive “mini” event on-site at The Umstead surrounding The Hope Gala to highlight your company or brand.
- 8 Event Tickets
- 4 Complimentary Room Nights at The Umstead in a Lakeview Balcony Suite (4 suites for 1 night or 2 suites for 2 nights)
- Gift Certificate to The Umstead - to be used anywhere on premise, including the spa, Herons Restaurant or the gift shop
- Logo/Name Placement on Website Sponsor Page
- Logo/Name on Event Signage
- Logo/Name on BidPal Silent Auction Page

PLATINUM..... \$25,000

- 6 Event Tickets
- Up to 3 Complimentary Room Nights at The Umstead in a Lakeview Balcony Suite
- Gift Certificate to The Umstead - to be used anywhere on premise, including the spa, Herons Restaurant or the gift shop
- Logo/Name Placement on Website Sponsor Page
- Logo/Name on Event Signage
- Logo/Name on BidPal Silent Auction Page

GOLD..... \$10,000

- 4 Event Tickets
- Up to 2 Complimentary Room Nights at The Umstead (2 rooms for 1 night or 1 room for 2 nights)
- Logo/Name Placement on Website Sponsor Page
- Logo/Name on Event Signage
- Logo/Name on BidPal Silent Auction Page

SILVER..... \$5,000

- 2 Event Tickets
- 1 Complimentary Room Night at The Umstead
- Logo/Name Placement on Website Sponsor Page
- Logo/Name on Event Signage
- Logo/Name on BidPal Silent Auction Page

***please contact us by July 30th to secure your sponsorship;**

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