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**MEDICAL SCHOOL AND LOCAL ALS
ASSOCIATION TO FIGHT LOU GEHRIG DISEASE**

The ALS Association, Nevada Chapter and the University of Nevada School of Medicine have joined forces to multiply services and resources available to patients and families suffering from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

More commonly known as Lou Gehrig Disease, ALS is a progressive neuromuscular disease that weakens and destroys the motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord. In the U.S., fourteen new cases are diagnosed each day, according to Connie Bobo, chairman of the ALS chapter.

The new alliance is patient and family oriented. The School of Medicine was selected as the ALS's provider of choice because it offers a multi-disciplinary approach to clinical services. ALS patients can be seen by a team of medical specialists in neurology, speech, physical and respiratory therapy, and social service advocates all within one appointment, according to Swamy Venketesh, M.D., director of the medical school's neuromuscular center.

The collaboration will focus on offering additional patient and family services including a resource library, support groups, information on augmented communication devices, updates on

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MEDICAL SCHOOL AND ALS ASSOCIATION JOIN FORCES – 2

scientific research, and telephone buddies. The medical school is also participating in the ALS Care Program, a national health database.

The ALS Nevada Chapter is a voluntary organization dedicated to raising money for clinical research programs at the School of Medicine and providing services that make things easier for patients and families. For example, the patient services committee's outreach program includes providing a "dining out" where volunteers will prepare and deliver an evening's meal to the home of the ALS patient – complete with flowers and candlelight.

Patients, families and volunteers may contact the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Center for Neuromuscular Disorders in Las Vegas, at 671-5070 for appointments to the multispecialty clinic, or the ALS Nevada Chapter at 645-7567 for information on support services.