

Mayo Clinic Minute

Icy Challenge Fires Up ALS Research

VIDEO	AUDIO
Courtesy: YouTube	It was a one-of-a-kind bucket brigade ...
	<i>Sound of water being poured over a man's head</i>
	...of average Janes ...
	... and famous Georges ...
Courtesy: NBC/YouTube	... and Jimmys.
	<i>Sound of water splashing</i>
	And, I mean, it just kept accumulating.
	<i>Sound of water splashing</i>
Graphic: \$115 million	In all, 115-million dollars was raised – much of it for research...
	...about this disease that attacks the body's motor nerves and ultimately leads to paralysis of voluntary muscles.
	What that did for research in ALS cannot be overstated.
	Mayo Clinic neurologist Dr. Eric Sorenson – there on the right – says ...
	<i>Sound of water splashing</i>
	...the challenge has created an unparalleled period of partnership and discovery.
Title: ERIC SORENSON, M.D. NEUROLOGY Mayo Clinic	It's sped up our understanding of ALS. It's sped up the rate of collaboration.
	And, that collaboration speeds up breakthroughs – like the identification of a new ALS gene called NEK1 – a genetic contributor to ALS and a promising new target for drug development.

	Every gene we discover is very important to our understanding of why this disease happens.
	And, really, that's the first step towards curing it.
	And, that's something worth cheering about.
	<i>Sound of people cheering</i>
Graphic: newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jeff Olsen.