



## November is Alpha-1 Awareness Month

*The main goal is to spread awareness about the condition that affects over 100,000 people in the U.S.*

**Miami, Nov. 1, 2018** – The month of November has been marked by the Alpha-1 Foundation as a month to raise awareness about Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1), throughout several activities designed to increase knowledge and spread awareness about this condition that affects at least 100,000 people in the United States and several other thousands worldwide. However, fewer than 10% have been diagnosed.

During Alpha-1 Awareness Month, those affected by Alpha-1 share their stories, their challenges and successes of living with the condition, and the importance of Alpha-1 research and early detection.

People with Alpha-1, along with their friends and families, take part in a variety of activities, including Virtual Walks that allow them to increase awareness and raise funds for Alpha-1 research and related programs in their own time, with their own style, and at their own pace.

Alpha-1 is a genetic condition – it is passed on from parents to their children through genes, that may result in serious lung disease in adults and/or liver disease at any age. It is the most commonly known genetic risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

“What keeps me up at night is finding the patients who are still searching for a diagnosis out there,” expressed Karen Erickson, associate executive director of community engagement of the Alpha-1 Foundation.

“Early detection of Alpha-1 gives Alphas the opportunity to choose a healthy lifestyle, start treatment if needed, and participate in the research that will ultimately lead to the cure of the condition. Alpha-1 Awareness Month illustrates just how informed and engaged our community is, and it spotlights their commitment to finding other Alphas as well as new therapies for Alpha-1,” added Erickson.

During the month of November, the Foundation shares facts about Alpha-1 on its website and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), so keep your eyes (and devices) open for Alpha-1 Awareness Month updates with the hashtag #Alpha1Awareness and Virtual Walk updates with the hashtag #A1VW18. Also, don’t forget to share them!

“Our goal is to raise awareness and help fund research. Every step taken in November moves us one step closer to the cure,” said Angela McBride, director of corporate relations of the Alpha-1 Foundation.

Join our efforts. Alpha-1 awareness is a year-round endeavor, but during the month of November we ask that everyone becomes engaged and increases Alpha-1 awareness. To help you get started, we have created free materials that you can download, print, share on social media and email. Let’s increase Alpha-1 awareness in the community, around the country and on social media, together!

To learn more about Alpha-1 Awareness Month and to visit our Digital Awareness Toolkit section where you can find images and memes that you can use, please go to [www.alpha1.org/awareness](http://www.alpha1.org/awareness)

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### **About the Alpha-1 Foundation**

The Alpha-1 Foundation, founded in 1995, is committed to finding a cure for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) and to improving the lives of people affected by the condition worldwide. The Foundation has invested over \$71 million to support Alpha-1 research and programs at 112 institutions in North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia.

For more information, visit [www.alpha1.org](http://www.alpha1.org)

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