



Nuri Smith

Donnell Award

*Ph.D. Candidate, Genetics and Molecular Biology
First Year ARCS Scholar*

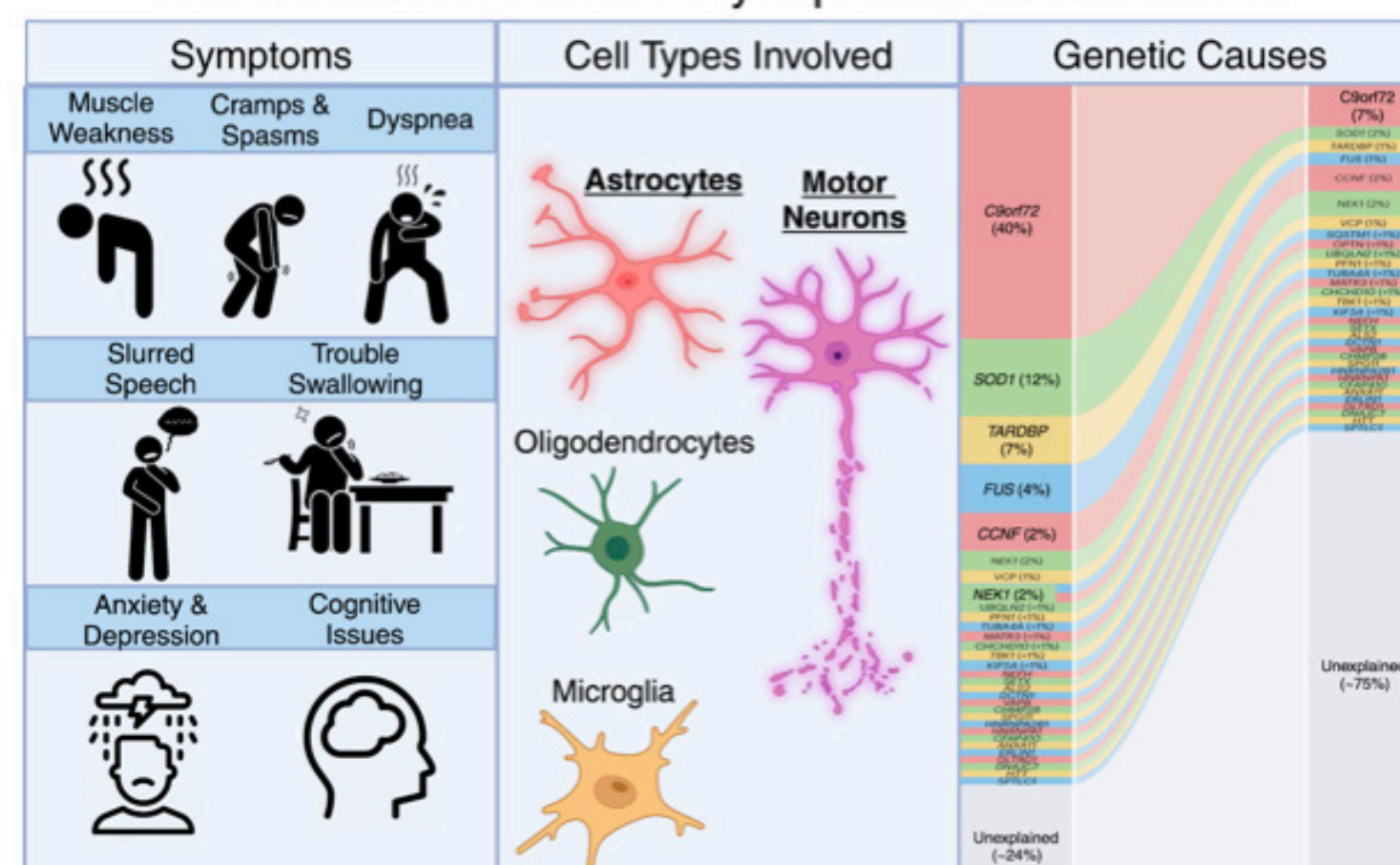


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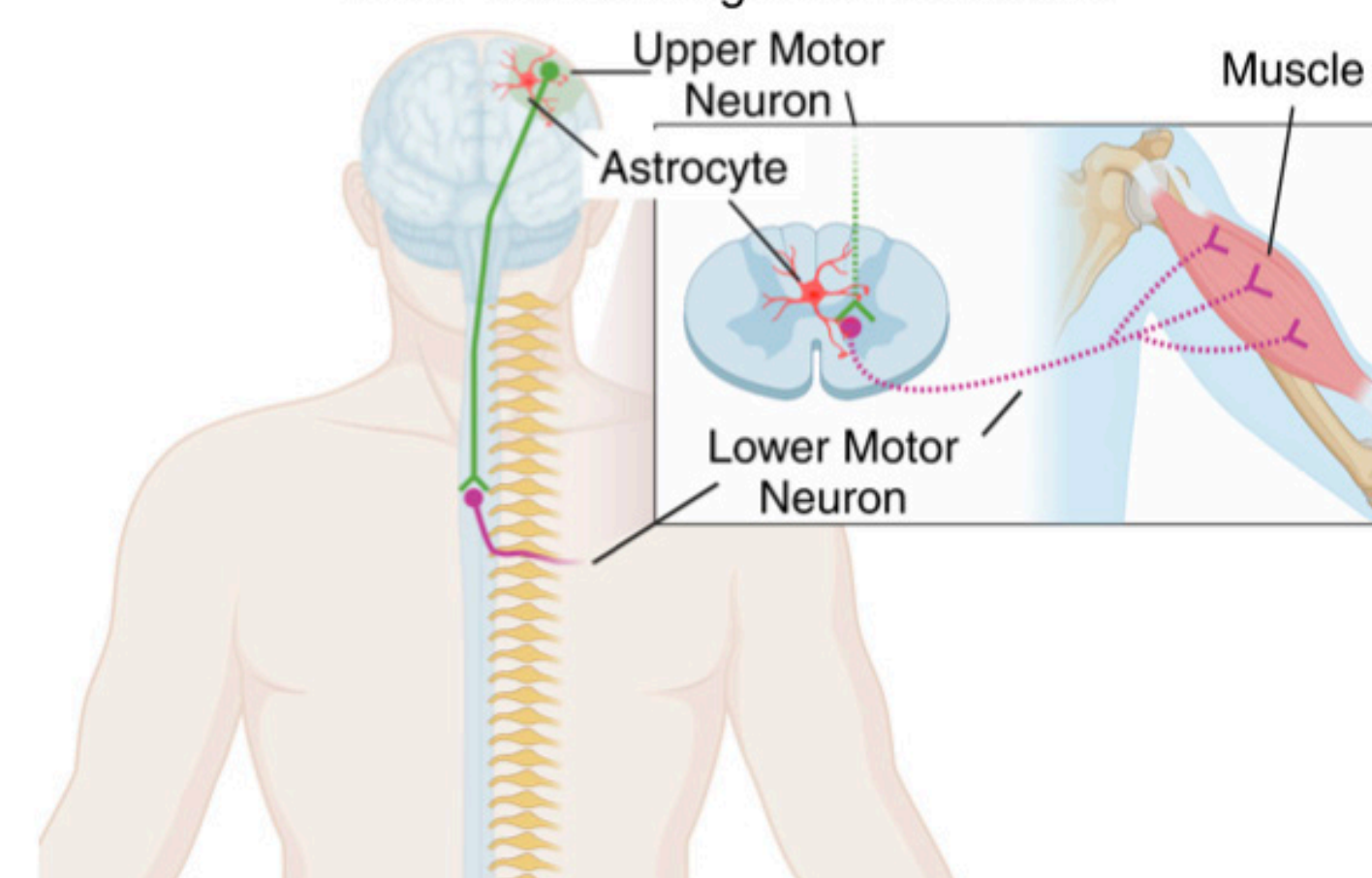
Investigating Motor Neurons and Astrocytes in Spinal Cord Organoid Models of ALS

Motor Neurons are selectively degraded in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. I aim to understand the transcriptional and functional alterations that lead to this degeneration, and how Astrocytes impact these processes.

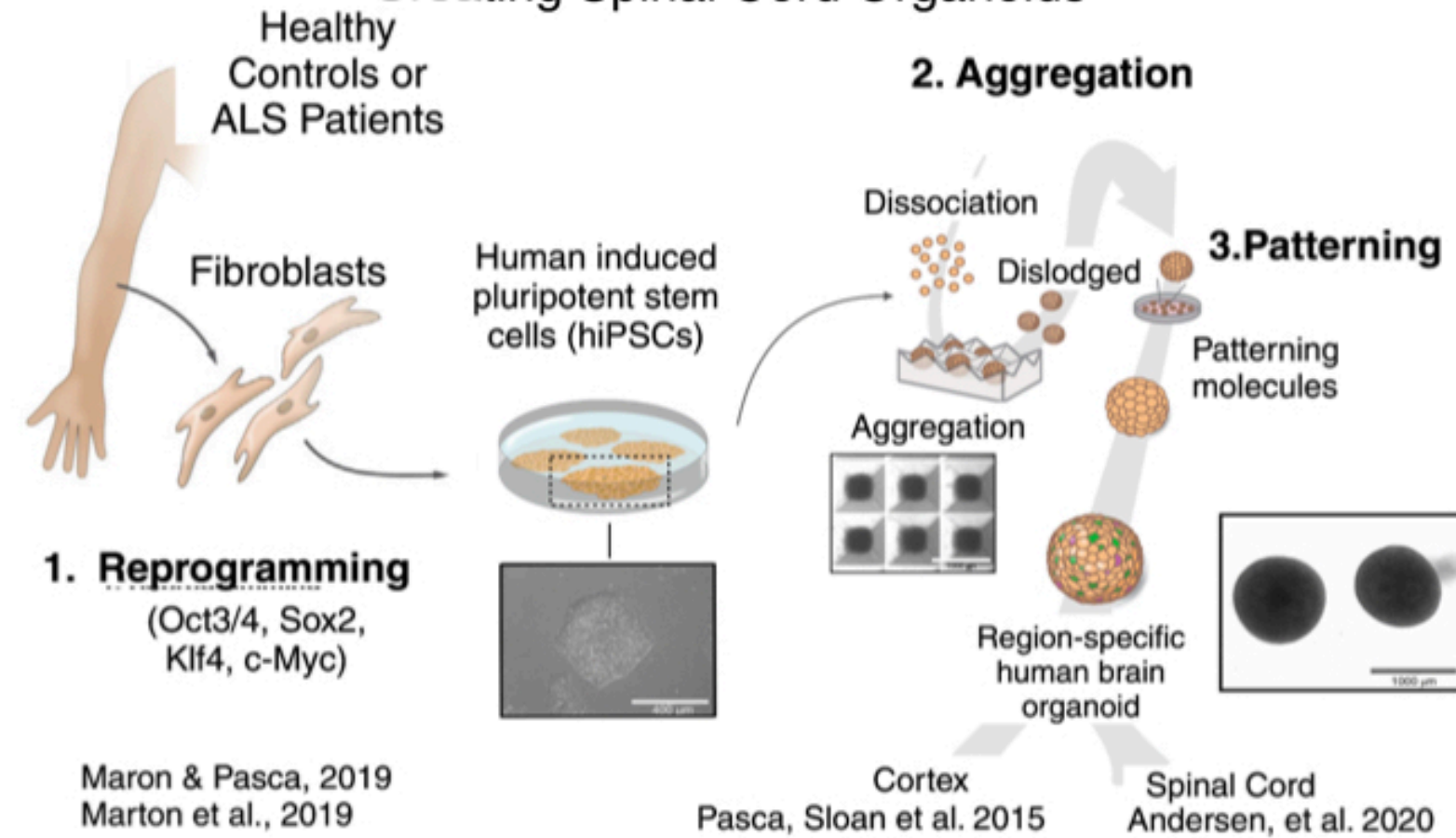
What We Know About Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis



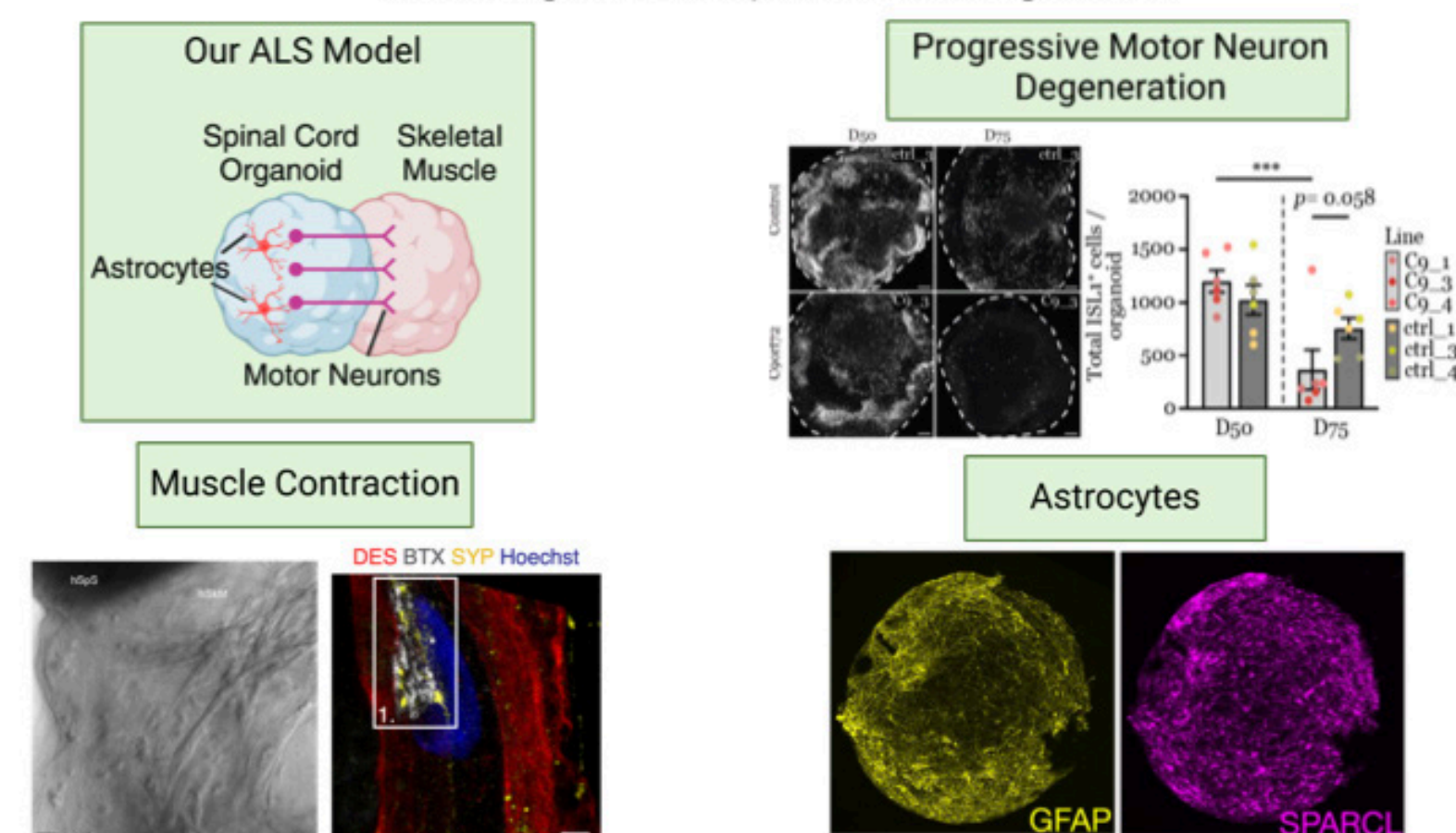
Motor Neuron Degeneration in ALS



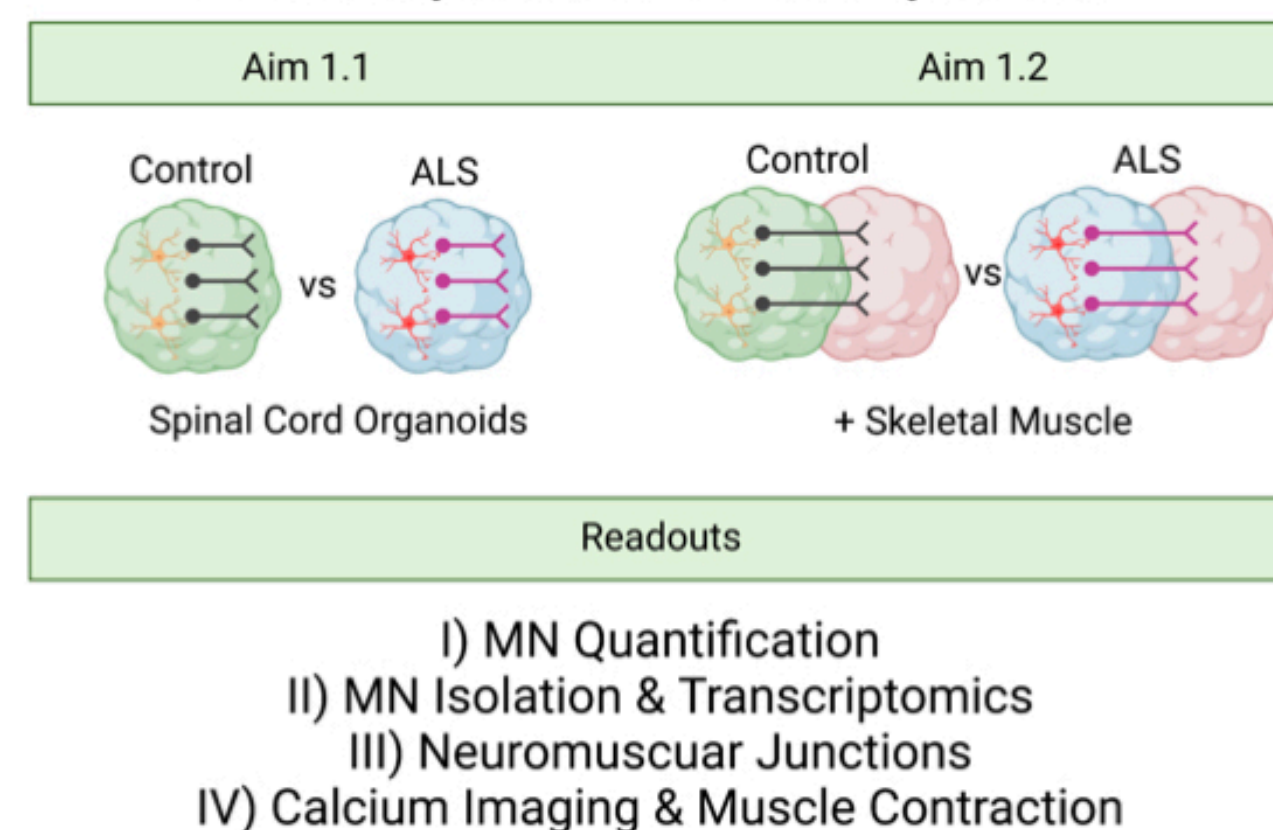
Creating Spinal Cord Organoids



Modeling ALS in Spinal Cord Organoids



Aim 1: How Are ALS Motor Neurons Transcriptionally and Functionally Different from Healthy Controls



Aim 2: What Role Do Astrocytes Play in Motor Neuron Degeneration

