

# Glossary

**ALSP:** adult-onset leukoencephalopathy with axonal spheroids and pigmented glia; ALSP was formerly known as two different disorders, pigmentary orthochromatic leukodystrophy (POLD) and hereditary diffuse leukoencephalopathy with spheroids (HDLS)

**Autosomal dominant:** a pattern of inheritance where a person has one normal and one mutated copy of a gene

**Axonal spheroids:** swelling within part of a neuron that transmits signals; usually found with a loss of myelin

**Chromosome:** a long piece of DNA that carries genetic material called genes

**CSF1R:** colony-stimulating factor 1 receptor

**CT:** computed tomography combines multiple x-rays to produce a more complete image of the body

**Gene:** part of a chromosome that carries enough DNA to make a specific characteristic of a person

**Glia:** supportive cells in the nervous system

**HSCT:** hematopoietic stem cell therapy; a type of bone marrow transplant that uses donor stem cells to replace damaged or mutated stem cells

**Leukodystrophy:** rare, progressive, metabolic, genetic diseases that affect the brain, spinal cord and nerves that are caused by genetic mutations that lead to loss of myelin

**Leukoencephalopathy:** a type of leukodystrophy that mainly affects the brain and spinal cord

**MRI:** magnetic resonance imaging uses magnetic fields and radio waves to produce images of the body

**Macrophage:** a large white blood cell of the immune system that attacks foreign things in the body

**Microglia:** a type of glia cell that acts like a macrophage in the brain

**Multiple sclerosis:** a nervous system disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, and that damages myelin

**Mutation:** a change in the structure of a gene that may change the way the gene functions or what it makes

**Myelin:** insulating sheath around nerve fibers that help speed up neuron signals

**Neurons:** cells in the brain, spinal cord, and nerves that are responsible for transmitting signals from one part of the body to another

**Parkinsonian tremor:** an involuntary tremor that happens at rest but lessens during sleep or activity