

## Pat Dolan, kindness in his genes & blood

By Pat's wife, Mara Dolan

If Pat Dolan is anything (and he is a lot of things!) he is consistently exceptional in every endeavor he takes on. A runner since his high school days (Colorado State Champion – 5k in 15:26!) and a mapmaker and winemaker since college (won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Orange County Home Wine Competition!), Pat has also been a kindhearted soul since birth (see sidebar ☺). At age 49, Pat can no longer run or make wine and must fight to do basic things like breathe and swallow. If the disease is left to run its course, Pat will lose even the precious movement of his eyes, and he will be completely trapped within his body, with a perfectly fit mind. At that point his daily survival is made even more difficult because he won't be able to communicate his needs. He will be vulnerable to pneumonia, infection, and so many other threats.

It doesn't have to be like this for Pat. Several experimental treatments and drugs are working, such as NurOwn. If Pat is one of the responders to these treatments/drugs, the effects of ALS paralysis could be reversed or at least kept in check until an even better treatment comes along. Pat tried to get into the NurOwn trial in our region. He met all published trial criteria but was rejected due to having a "not quite fast enough" progression (even though his doctors consider his progression to be of average speed). *But even* had he got in, he had a 50% chance of



Pat and Mara, Sept 2019



1<sup>st</sup> place, 2007 Orange County Wine Competition



Winning state in 1988

### **A kindhearted soul since kindergarten**

One day Pat arrived home late from kindergarten (he lived beside the school so walked himself home). His mom was worried sick. When his mom asked why he took so long to get home, he explained that he saw his kindergarten classmate Amy crying because her mom was late to pick her up, so he decided to wait with her until her mom arrived. For anyone who knows Pat, this story of inherent empathy is no surprise, because Pat is just one of those wonderful people with thoughtfulness locked into his genes—and blood (his type, type O, is the only type that can give to any other type, an irony not lost on me!) He helps people at every opportunity, always volunteering & mentoring. Fast forward 41 years, Pat now is getting back all that love and support he's poured out over the years. Team Pat's support knows no bounds!



getting the placebo. *And even* had he received the real treatment *and was* a responder, he would not have been allowed to remain on the treatment to extend or save his life—an absurd reality. Making ALS trials less absurd and more humane and useful are initiatives I AM ALS and the ALS Caucus are tackling.

### **Additional info**

Despite extreme challenges, Pat used his GIS skills to advocate new ways to improve care, find promising treatments, and build stronger communities for ALS. [Here is a video of Pat](#) demonstrating that vision at Esri's health conference.

A map Pat made using only his eyes: [Find your ALS clinic](#)

NurOwn's creator, [Brainstorm, reports](#) that NurOwn slows down ALS in 87% of trial participants. See my [list of those it's basically reversed symptoms in](#). Pat should have the right to try NurOwn but doesn't. Pat tried to get into two other trials, met the published criteria, yet was rejected for flimsy reasons. Are we really trying to solve this thing?