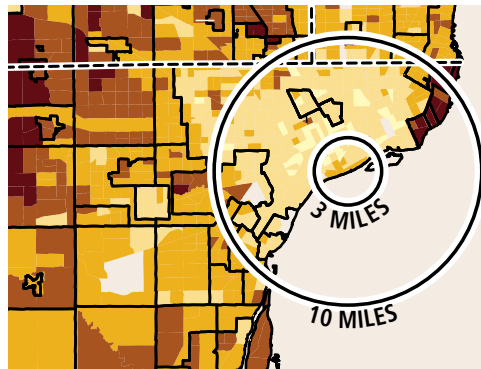




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A GUARD AT NO. 5?
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JOB SPRAWL: WORST IN U.S.

STUDY FINDS MOST METRO JOBS ARE FAR FROM DETROIT CORE. **BUSINESS, 1B**

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WASHINGTON

SENATE DEFEATS EXPANDED BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN BUYERS

The U.S. Senate blocked bipartisan legislation Wednesday aimed at tightening restrictions on the sale of firearms, a huge defeat for President Barack Obama and a rejection of personal pleas by families of the victims of the school shooting in Connecticut.

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LANSING

Bill would allow dogs on restaurants' outdoor decks

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A CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS

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DETAILS, 2A

BOSTON TERROR AFTERMATH

Man on video sought in attack

He's seen setting down bag at blast site along marathon route



FBI investigators sweep up Boylston Street, the scene of Monday's twin bombings in Boston. An image captured by surveillance cameras in the area shows a man putting down a bag, a law enforcement official said. **GETTY IMAGES**

By Donna Leinwand Leger, Kevin Johnson, Doug Stanglin and Gary Strauss
 USA TODAY

Investigators are exploring a number of promising leads in the Boston Marathon bombing case, including an image of a man believed involved in one of Monday's twin explosions that killed three people and injured 176.

A federal law enforcement official told USA TODAY Wednesday that the image, captured by surveil-

lance cameras in the area of one of the bomb sites, shows a man putting down a bag near one of the bomb sites. It is drawing close scrutiny because the bag appears to be similar to the type of black nylon pack described earlier as possibly used to carry the explosive devices, officials who have been briefed on the inquiry told USA TODAY.

Authorities were working to identify the individual in the surveillance video obtained from a

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■ CHINESE STUDENT KILLED IN BOSTON ATTACK REMEMBERED AS SMART. 13A

■ FREEP.COM: LATEST NEWS UPDATES

Murder charge just the start for Bashara

Worthy: Victim's husband sought to hinder probe with fake tips, lies

By Gina Damron and Elisha Anderson
 Detroit Free Press Staff Writers

A new chapter has opened in a murder mystery that has captivated metro Detroit for more than a year with scandalous tales of mistresses, hit men and, now, allegations of witness tampering.

Grosse Pointe Park businessman Bob Bashara has long been identified as a person of interest in his wife's slaying and was charged Wednesday in her death. He also is accused of intimidating witnesses, encouraging witnesses to lie under oath, encouraging people to call in fake tips and trying to have one witness leave the state, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said.

Jane Bashara was found strangled in January 2012 and left in her SUV, which was dumped in an alley on Detroit's east side.

The multi-agency investigation into her death was far-reaching, Worthy said, with 5,000 pages of documents and nearly 300 witnesses.

It stretched into multiple states, including Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Florida, Oregon and Texas. The investigation already has led to the confession of purported hit man Joseph Gentz, who said Bob Bashara offered him money to kill his wife, and resulted in prison time for Bashara, who is accused of trying to have Gentz killed before he could testify.

Worthy said the case "has a lot of tentacles."

Prosecutors expect to give a date for Bashara's arraignment in 36th District Court in Detroit next week on several charges, including first-degree murder, according to the



Bob Bashara of Grosse Pointe Park is charged in the 2012 killing of wife Jane Bashara.

See **DEATH**, Page 9A

U-M trial new hope for Lou Gehrig's patients

U.S. OKs expansion of stem-cell surgeries

By Robin Erb
 Detroit Free Press Medical Writer

A clinical trial using human neural stem cells — injected into the spinal cord — to halt or even reverse the deadly effects of Lou Gehrig's disease

may begin recruiting patients at the University of Michigan as early as this summer.

Until now, the surgeries have taken place at Emory University in Atlanta, led in part by a former U-M neurosurgery resident, Dr. Nicholas Boulis, and overseen by U-M physician and neurology professor Dr. Eva Feldman. The trial is the only one if its kind

because the neural stem cells are injected directly into the spinal cord.

At Emory, 15 patients underwent surgery during Phase I, which was focused primarily on safety. At least one appeared to improve dramatically for a short time, regaining use of his legs. Feldman attended each surgery.

The go-ahead Monday by

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to expand the trial to Phase II means the surgeries can take place at U-M as well. The second phase will involve 15 patients split between U-M and Emory, according to U-M and the provider of the stem cells, Maryland-based Neuralstem.

Participants must be ambulatory. See **STEM CELL**, Page 9A



Dr. Eva Feldman is overseeing the clinical trial. DETROIT FREE PRESS

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DEATH: Bashara to face charges in wife's killing

FROM PAGE 1A

prosecutor's office. "He was always a person of interest," Worthy said.

Despite the allegations, Bashara has maintained that he had nothing to do with his wife's killing. If he's convicted on the murder charge, he faces life in prison.

Few details about the case were released Wednesday, including whether there was DNA evidence or what the motive may have been. Court documents have been sealed, a court official said.

But throughout the investigation, details have emerged.

After his wife's death, Bashara's personal life — which purportedly included a mistress and a sex dungeon in the basement of a commercial property — came to light.

At a September hearing over Bashara's bond, a prosecutor said Bashara had, at one point, sent someone to threaten one of his tenants if the tenant talked to police about him. Bashara is also accused of sending an unidentified woman to contact his former mistress, who filed a personal protection order against him. The unidentified woman, a prosecutor said during the September hearing, was from out of state and knew Bashara from a bondage and sadomasochism website.

Bashara, whose family members could not be reached for comment, was notified Wednesday of the charges against him, his attorney, Mark Kriger, said.

"It's been my practice, and it continues to be my practice, not to comment on pending cases," Kriger said, "but Bob Bashara has steadfastly maintained, and continues to maintain, he had nothing to do with the death of his wife."

In addition to first-degree murder, Bashara is being charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, solicitation to commit murder, suborning of perjury during a capital trial, witness intimidation and obstruction of justice.

Bashara is in a Manistee prison, serving about 6½-20 years for trying to hire a hit man to kill Gentz, who was sentenced in February to serve 17-28 years in prison for Jane Bashara's death.

Bob Bashara pleaded guilty in October to solicitation to commit murder, admitting that he tried to pay local furniture store owner Steve Tibaud to find someone to kill Gentz, his former handyman who walked into the Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety and confessed to killing Jane Bashara shortly after her death.



Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy explains the complexity of the case Wednesday.

Tibaud wore a wire for police during his conversations with Bob Bashara and testified in July that Bashara paid him \$2,000 toward the \$20,000 price of the hit.

When reached Wednesday, Tibaud declined to comment on the charges against Bashara.

Worthy said she believes Gentz — who court records show has a below-average IQ but who was deemed mentally competent to stand trial — will be a solid witness.

"We feel he's going to be a very strong witness for us," she said.

At the news conference Wednesday, which lasted nearly 18 minutes, Worthy was flanked by assistant county prosecutors and law enforcement officials from multiple agencies, including the Grosse Pointe Park police, Detroit police, Michigan State Police and the FBI.

Worthy said the case took more than a year to investigate because of its complexity.

"It is always best and most efficient to do the work that needs to be done on a case before it is charged, even if we know early on the direction a case is going to take," she said.

Worthy said Jane Bashara's family was notified of the charges against Bob Bashara on Wednesday. She declined to discuss their reaction.

The family released a statement Wednesday after the announcement:

"Jane's parents, siblings and children are pleased that the investigation into her murder has come to a conclusion," the statement reads.

"We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Grosse Pointe Park police, Detroit police, Michigan State Police, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and all other law enforcement agencies who have worked so tirelessly and with such dedication to ensure that those responsible for Jane's murder are brought to justice."

Contact Gina Damron: 313-223-4526 or gdamron@freepress.com



"I might be past the point of eligibility, but I'm always happy with any news that we might be moving forward," said Dave Murray, 55, of Sterling Heights, who suffers with ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. He is comforted by his wife Sheryl Murray. ANDRE JACKSON/DETROIT FREE PRESS

STEM CELL: ALS clinical trial OK'd

FROM PAGE 1A

latory and live close to those universities.

Currently, there is no cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often called ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. One drug extends life, but usually just by months.

The disease moves swiftly, with most people living two to five years after diagnosis. ALS deadens nerves, withers muscles and, in a final assault, cuts off a person's ability to breathe even as their mind remains intact.

Dave Murray, 55, of Sterling Heights said Wednesday he was "thrilled" by the trial's move to U-M, though it's unclear whether he would be eligible.

The former security alarm installer already has been a participant in two other clinical trials.

"I might be past the point of eligibility, but I'm always happy with any news that we might be moving forward," he said. "It's such a horrible disease."

Two years ago, he was sitting with his coat draped over his arms on an exam table when a doctor gave him the diagnosis, told him he had three, maybe five, years left. Only the sound of his doctor washing her hands at the tiny sink broke the suffocating silence that followed.

"The doctor, she was very compassionate," recalled his wife, Sheryl Murray. "She left us room to cry. She said, 'Take whatever time you need.'"

Feldman, the physician overseeing the trial, has spent her career stalking ALS and searching for a cure. She has watched helplessly as countless patients have died over the years — as many as five a week and as young as 16, she told the Free Press in 2012.

The trial is still early and will move slowly as she and other researchers continually assess their results and report the findings to the FDA.

Phase II means researchers can begin assessing the effectiveness of the procedure, not just its safety. In a lengthy surgery, a specially designed apparatus is attached to the spine and inserts human stem cells into a person's spinal cord.

Feldman and others theorize that these new cells, once in the spinal cord, act as nursemaids to damaged nerve cells, sending out repair signals, and somehow halting the progression of the disease.

The cells were derived from a cell line that dates to the spinal cord of an aborted fetus in 2000. The cells are different from the embryonic stem cells that were the subject of a controversial ballot proposal in Michigan in 2008, when voters approved lifting the ban on embryonic stem cell research.

U-M's Institutional Review Board, which oversees clinical trials to make sure they are scientifically and ethically sound, must sign off on the experimental surgeries before U-M begins recruiting.

Despite its limitations, the trial offers hope for those who see little of it once they are

WHAT IS ALS?



Jean-Martin Charcot

Among the most common neuromuscular diseases worldwide, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) attacks motor nerve cells that control voluntary muscles. It was first described by French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot in 1869.

WHO GETS IT?

An estimated 5,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with the disease each year; 30,000 have it at any given time. ALS has been diagnosed in people of all races and ages and is most common in people ages 40-60. Men are affected more often. Five percent to 10% of cases are inherited.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WITH ALS?

Patients lose strength and the ability to move their arms, legs and body. When muscles in the diaphragm and chest wall fail, patients can no longer breathe without ventilator support.

WHAT'S THE LIFE EXPECTANCY?

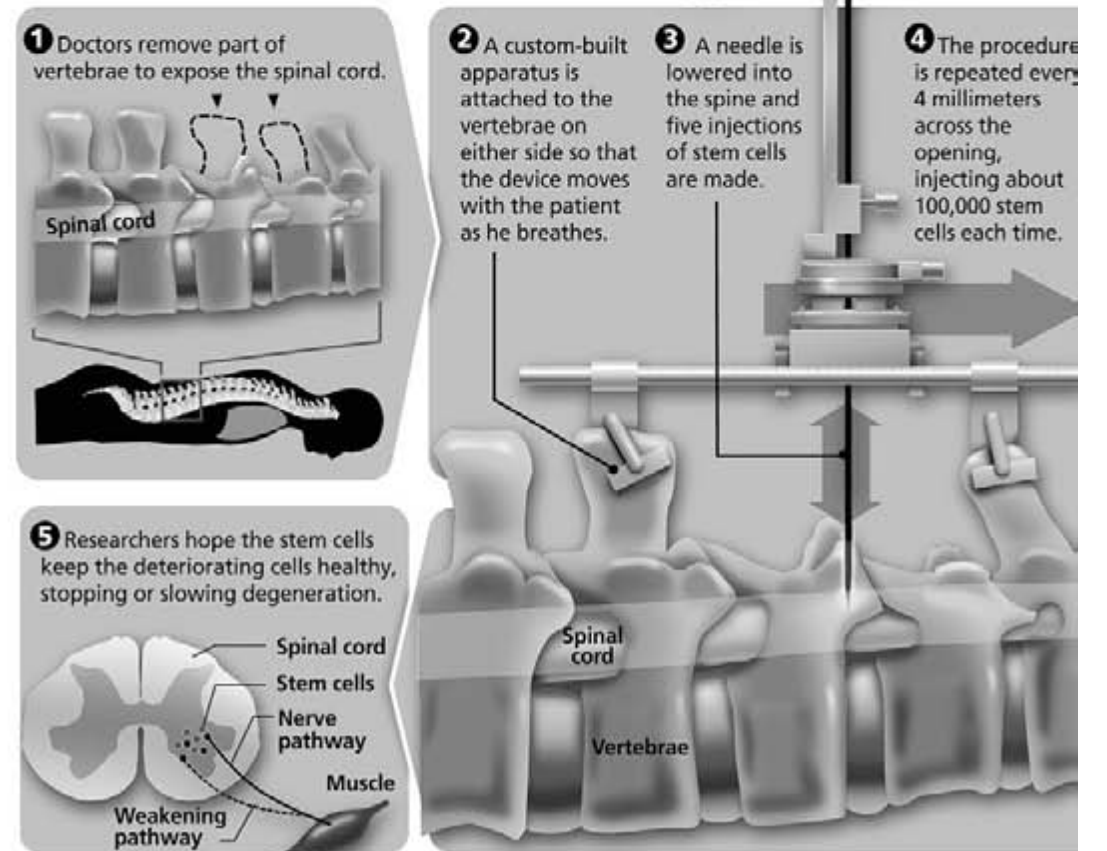
Most people with ALS die from respiratory failure, usually within three to five years of the onset of symptom about 10% of ALS patients survive 10 years or more.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

Rilutek is the first and only medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for ALS. It appears to extend life by a few months, but it cannot restore physical strength.

HOW THE ALS STEM CELL TRIAL WORKS

The trial led by University of Michigan researchers involves injecting 500,000-1 million stem cells into a patient's spine. Dr. Nicholas Boulis, a former U-M resident of neurosurgery and now chief surgeon for ALS clinical trial in Atlanta, invented the device used in the surgery. Maryland-based Neuralstem, which is funding the first phase of the trial, holds the license.



Photos: JOHN RAOUX/ASSOCIATED PRESS, MARTIN VLOET/UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN and JOHN W. FERGUSON/GETTY IMAGES SOURCE: University of Michigan Health System, Internet Money & Business Development and U.S. Patent Office Text: ROBIN ERB, Graphic by: DAVID PIERCE/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Joseph Gentz, with attorney Susan Reed, told police that he killed Jane Bashara at her husband's behest. REGINA H. BOONE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

handed a diagnosis, said Sue Burstein-Kahn, executive director of ALS of Michigan. Her father died of ALS.

She called the FDA approval "wonderful" in that it could provide insights to a treatment for future patients.

"We need ALS research fast-tracked," she said.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- A University of Michigan Institutional Review Board will review the protocols for the trial, considering the ethics and science of the experimental procedure.
- U-M cannot begin recruiting until the the board OKs the trial. The approval process could take months.
- Once approval is given, the

research team, made up of doctors, nurses, researchers and others, may begin recruiting. U-M most likely will post recruiting information on its clinical trials website, www.umclinicalstudies.com. For ALS patients wishing to take part in U-M research, e-mail jkballar@umich.edu.