

**Alicia Mantz** lives in Ocala, Florida. She has been married to Jeff for 21 years and is the parent of OMS Warrior, Lauren (16) and her older sister, Kaley (18) and her younger brother, Kyle (13). Lauren first presented with symptoms of OMS in January of 2009 at 21 months of age, but she was not formally diagnosed with OMS until 6 months later. She was originally treated for acute post infectious cerebellar ataxia and seizures in Orlando. After her third relapse and hospitalization in 3 months, the family was told that Lauren's VMA/HVA in her urine were elevated and was indicative of a tumor. When one was not found and all other tests were considered "normal," Lauren's parents chose to seek out a second opinion in both oncology and neurology at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Gorman began her on high dose oral steroids/Prednisolone and IVIg. Over the years, she has also been treated with 3 courses of Rituximab, Dexamethasone and Cell-Sept. Lauren's OMS has followed a chronic, relapsing, and complex course with secondary complications from her tumor resection and additional diagnoses including a cardiac adrenal septal defect (ASD), pancreatitis, a pancreatic pseudocyst and hypogammaglobulinemia. Lauren just completed her freshman year of high school where she achieved A/B honor roll and enjoys art and horseback riding. Alicia, Jeff, and Lauren have been supporting the OMSLife Foundation since its inception. They first met Mike Michaelis in Boston during one of the first get togethers he coordinated. Due to not having a children's hospital local, The Mantz Family had to find other ways to support OMS. In 2009, they started The Lauren Mantz Fund for OMS Research at BCH. They hosted a local annual Mother-Son Dance from 2011-2015 with the proceeds going to The Lauren Mantz Fund. The family also supports OMSLife Foundation with an annual donation. Alicia is a speech-language pathologist who works in private practice with kids in Ocala.



