It's time to stop saying “the mind is unaffected” in ALS

When Professor Stephen Hawking died in March 2018 after living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) for 55 years, the obituaries rightly celebrated a brilliant mind trapped in a failing body. Unfortunately, this shorthand description of ALS (found throughout the medical and lay literature alike) is firmly contradicted by a research base that finds frontotemporal dementia in 10% to 15% of cases and subtle cognitive deficits in 33% to 50%.\(^1\) In this issue of *Neurology*, Crockford et al.\(^2\) report a large and carefully controlled study of 161 patients with ALS across 3 centers with 80 matched healthy controls to address a question that has puzzled the field for 40 years: are the cognitive and behavioral symptoms in ALS more prevalent at more advanced stages of disease?