



NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY

Promise: 2010

To encourage innovative research into highly promising areas and to improve MS patient care, the National MS Society launched the Promise: 2010 Campaign. This nationwide effort fueled by local MS chapters will raise \$30 million to fund four targeted areas that hold great potential in the fight against the devastating effects of MS, but which have so far been under-explored.

Nervous System Repair and Protection: This bold international initiative with its collaborative team approach has been established to study tissue repair and protection in MS. To tackle this goal \$15.6 million has allocated to four new grants – the largest single grants ever awarded by the Society. This research sets the stage to help translate basic science into meaningful, better therapies for people with MS in the future by restoring nerve function. The four interdisciplinary teams are being led by Drs. Peter Calabresi (Johns Hopkins), Ian D. Duncan (University of Wisconsin), Charles ffrench-Constant (Cambridge University) and Gavin Giovannoni (University College London), and involve collaborators in the Canada, Europe and the U.S. The teams are developing non-invasive tools and models, and designing clinical trials to pave the way for testing ways to protect and rebuild the central nervous system.

Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence: About 8,000-10,000 children have MS, and another 10,000-15,000 experience what may be MS symptoms. MS is difficult to diagnose in children and most pediatricians are not familiar with MS. A first-of-its kind network of Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence has been created to set the standard for pediatric MS care. This integrated network will offer optimal medical and psychosocial support to children and their families, serve as a clearinghouse for information about childhood MS, and will conduct critical research to understand both childhood and adult MS. Six funded centers, announced in November 2005, are led by Drs. Jayne Ness (Children's Hospital of Alabama), Bianca Weinstock-Guttman (State University of New York, Buffalo), Nancy Kuntz & Moses Rodriguez (Mayo Clinic Rochester), Lauren Krupp (Stony Brook University Hospital), Tanuja Chitnis (Massachusetts General Hospital) and Emmanuelle Waubant (University of California, San Francisco).

The Sonya Slifka Longitudinal MS Study: The first study of its kind in the U.S., the Sonya Slifka Longitudinal MS Study is a repository of in-depth information about the lives of people with MS. Investigators are collecting detailed data from a national sampling of 2,000 individuals. This study integrates clinical information, healthcare practices, and socio-economic data to learn what happens to people with MS over time and what factors influence the long-term course of MS. The study is overseen by Sarah Minden, MD, of Abt Associates in Cambridge, Mass.

The MS Lesion Project: This international collaboration led by Claudia Lucchinetti, MD, at the Mayo Clinic seeks patterns in the MS damage seen in brain tissue and attempts to correlate those findings with actual clinical signs, symptoms, and responses to therapy. This effort provides vital information on the underlying pathology of MS and the impact of specific treatments. It is the most extensive attempt ever made to map and understand the meaning of MS damage seen in the brain. With this knowledge, we hope to develop better ways of treating people who exhibit specific patterns of disease.

Facts & Figures

- Since the Society's founding in 1946, it has expended over \$500 million to advance MS research and has been at the core of virtually every major breakthrough in treating and understanding MS.
- The Society spent over \$36 million in 2005 to support over 350 research projects internationally. For 2006, the Society expects to spend some \$37 million for research
- The Society recognizes the critical need to continue to expand the field of MS researchers by bringing new talent into the field while at the same time building long term relationships with researchers who have devoted their lives to MS research. This is why the Society funds more MS research than any other MS organization in world.
- The Promise: 2010 Campaign is a perfect illustration of this commitment and the Society's belief that it is not just research that will end the devastating effects of MS but researchers. The repair initiative alone has already engaged 50 researchers on collaborative teams, of which 26 are new to National MS Society funding.
- In addition, the Society offers:
 - **High-Risk Pilot Grants:** Unique 1-year grants to support research on innovative ideas.
 - **Far-sighted Training:** Fellowships to attract & keep brightest minds in MS research.
 - **Prize for Ending MS:** Offers a \$1 million cash prize (Ralph I. Straus Award) to any scientist(s) whose research leads to the development of a way to prevent or arrest MS.
- Since 1983 (when a formalized tracking system was set in place), there have been 1,230 research grants and 542 pilots funded by the Society.
- Of the 1,230 grantees, at least 87% that the Society has supported are still in MS research.
- Among the 542 researches that have been supported with pilot grants since the program began in 1988, 86% are still in MS research.
- Approximately 530 research training awardees have been funded through the Society's fellowship program, which began in 1954. 65% of these awardees are still in the MS field.
- For more information visit www.nationalmssociety.org or call 1-800-FIGHT MS.