

## Momentum is on my mind

I don't remember much of my high school science but I do know the basic theory of inertia. Sir Isaac Newton's law of motion teaches that something at rest tends to stay at rest, while something in motion wants to stay in motion. Because of friction, it's hard to get something moving when it's at rest—and the bigger it is, the harder it is. But once something gets rolling, the bigger it is, the harder it is to stop.



Christopher Reeve said, "So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they become inevitable."

I wonder if this leader, despite his outward confidence, had terrible moments of fear and doubt. I think he must have. It's part of being human to doubt ourselves, to assume the worst—that we'll hit the wall, be stopped in our tracks—and fail. Like us, Kranz and his team faced many unknowns—things that must have seemed completely beyond their control.

When I think about what we must do to bring MS to its knees I know that we all face moments of fear and doubt. But just as Gene Kranz and his team drew inspiration from the courage and trust of their astronauts, we see individuals and families living with

MS who accomplish things we never thought possible. We hear scientists and physicians reporting on unexpected research findings and encouraging treatment successes. We draw inspiration from this and move forward again.

We cannot think of ending MS as impossible, or even improbable. It is inevitable.

Failure is not an option. When the millions of people who want to **do** something about MS join the movement, the momentum will be unstoppable.

What works for objects, works for organizations. The more people that we engage in this fight, the more momentum we gain. And the greater our momentum, the stronger we become. The stronger we become, the sooner we'll be able to roll over multiple sclerosis. It just takes Momentum.

I often think of the mission control director of Apollo 13, Gene Kranz, who was confronted with these chilling words from his astronauts: "Houston, we have a problem." He and his staff were facing the worst odds, and the lives of the astronauts—who were also their friends—hung in the balance. Grim and resolute, he addressed his team with these now familiar words, "Failure," he said, "is not an option."



Joyce Nelson  
President & CEO  
The National MS Society  
700 Broadway, Suite 810  
Denver, CO 80203  
Or email [joyce@nmss.org](mailto:joyce@nmss.org)