List of Current Research Projects Funded by the National MS Society

Sorted by State/Country

May 2015

Advocacy, Services and Research Department
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
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New York, NY 10017-3288
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www.nationalmssociety.org
Introduction
The National MS Society believes that accelerated research breakthroughs will change lives and end MS forever. Finding solutions for people with MS is our highest priority.

Our goals are to
- Stop the disease in its tracks.
- Restore function.
- End MS forever.

The Society continues to pursue all promising paths to uncover solutions for everyone with MS, wherever those opportunities exist, while focusing on priority areas including progressive MS, nervous system repair, genetics/environment, and wellness/lifestyle.

The results of previous Society investments continue to mount in 2015, and we are committed to growing our research funding even further over time. In 2015 the Society expects to invest over $52 million in new and ongoing research projects and initiatives.

The National MS Society is recognized as a catalyst for all major advances in MS, and we fund more MS research than any other MS organization in the world. The Society is the best investment in driving solutions and changing the world for people with MS. A few examples include:

- Recruited more than 900 new MS researchers to the field.
- Provided early career support and funding to nearly every thought leader in MS research.
- Set standards in diagnosis, symptom management, pediatric MS, complementary and alternative medicine, rehabilitation research, clinical trial strategies and stem cell research.
- Established the MS field of nerve and myelin repair which resulted in trials for treatment.
- Drove research uncovering genes contributing to MS susceptibility and new treatment avenues.
- Paved the way for all existing therapies.

This document lists all current MS research projects being funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (USA) sorted by state and country, as of May 2015, and also includes projects to begin July 1.

Read more about research funded by the National MS Society
About Our Research Projects
The types of research and training awards we fund are indicated for each project in the following list:

- **Career Transition Fellowships** – awards up to five years to facilitate the advancement of promising young investigators into full faculty positions
- **Collaborative MS Research Center Awards** – 5-year awards to help stimulate creativity and interaction among investigators working within and outside MS fields
- **Commercial/Drug Development** – Commercial partnerships aim at specific strategies to drive the discovery of new therapies for people with MS
- **Daniel Haughton Senior Faculty Award** – awards for established investigators to provide specialized training in new areas of MS research
- **Merck Serono Drug Development Partnership** – The Society has a 5-year strategic alliance with EMD Serono/Merck KGaA to speed therapy development through the MS pipeline via both commercially oriented academic programs and early stage biotechnology companies
- **Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarships** – special five-year projects by promising young investigators just starting their careers as independent researchers
- **Health Care Delivery & Policy Contracts** – initiated by the Society and awarded on a competitive basis to investigators studying subjects identified as mission priorities
- **International Progressive MS Alliance** – projects jointly funded by Alliance members; [Read more](#)
- **Mentor-based Postdoctoral Rehabilitation Fellowships** – to enhance research into MS rehabilitation to improve quality of life
- **NMSS/American Academy of Neurology Clinician Scientist Development Award** -- to train physicians in MS clinical research
- **Pilot Research Grants** – aimed at exploring new, untested ideas
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships** – research projects by young investigators working under the mentorship of senior scientists, to provide training in MS research
- **Research Grants** – full grants for basic, clinical and rehabilitation research
- **Strategic Initiatives** – special projects that focus on core resources or other important unmet research needs
- **Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships** – young doctors working under the mentorship of seasoned clinicians, to provide training and experience in conducting clinical trials in people with MS

You will find for selected projects an indication of restricted support that has been provided from individuals, groups, families, or chapters to underwrite the project. This is listed in italic typeface directly beneath the project title.
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**PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.A.**

**AUSTRALIA**

**Ben Emery, B.S, Ph.D.**
University of Melbourne  
Melbourne, Australia  
Award: Research Grants  
“A transcriptional approach to myelin repair” Testing a strategy for increasing myelin repair in MS by manipulating a major gene in myelin formation.

**Trevor Kilpatrick, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.**
Howard Florey Inst of Exptal Physiology & Medicine  
Melbourne, Australia  
Award: Research Grants  
“Understanding the Role of MerTK in the aetiology and pathogenesis of MS” Investigating the function of an immune cell protein which is abnormal in some people with MS, to understand its potential role in MS.  
Funded by a gift from a Generous Donor

**Steven Petratos, Ph.D.**
Monash University  
Melbourne, Australia  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Delineating the role of the monocarboxylate transporter 8 (MCT8) in driving oligodendrocyte precursor cell maturation” Examining a molecule that may enable immature oligodendrocytes to replenish, for clues to repair strategies in MS.

**Steven Petratos, Ph.D.**
Monash University  
Melbourne, Australia  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
“Limiting axonal degeneration in a model of multiple sclerosis” This study may yield a new strategy for developing a therapy that limits damage to nerve cells and stops the progression of MS.  
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

**Alexandr Klistorner, Ph.D.**
University of Sydney  
Sydney, Australia  
Award: Research Grants  
“Investigating mechanisms of axonal degeneration in multiple sclerosis” What are the mechanisms that drive progressive nervous system damage in MS?
**BELGIUM**

Peter Feys, Ph.D.  
University Hasselt  
Hasselt, Belgium  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
**“TOWARDS A SHARED DATA REPOSITORY TO ENHANCE THE STANDARDS OF REHABILITATION IN MS: FEASIBILITY, CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROOF-OF-CONCEPT ON EXERCISE THERAPY & MOBILITY MEASURES”** This endeavor could enhance the ability to determine the best rehabilitation and exercise interventions for people with progressive MS, and provide the data needed to advocate for its widespread use to improve lives.  
*Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members*

**CANADA**

Christian Beaulieu, Ph.D.  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB, Canada  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
**“Insights Into Neurodegeneration of the Brain in Multiple Sclerosis Using Sodium Magnetic Resonance Imaging”** Exploring whether sodium MRI can provide advanced imaging of MS progression and cognitive deficits, to facilitate the tracking of MS.

Nandini Deshpande, M.Sc., P.T., Ph.D.  
Queen's University  
Kingston, ON, Canada  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  

Marcia Finlayson, Ph.D.  
Queen's University  
Kingston, ON, Canada  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program  
**“Building capacity to develop, implement and evaluate MS self-management research”** Training postdoctoral fellows to conduct MS rehabilitation research that focuses on examining ways that people can enhance their ability to effectively manage their daily lives and improve their quality of life.

Marcia Finlayson, Ph.D.  
Queen's University  
Kingston, ON, Canada  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program  
**“Building capacity for MS self-management research and knowledge translation”** Training postdoctoral fellows to conduct MS rehabilitation research that focuses on examining ways that people can enhance their ability to effectively manage their daily lives and improve their quality of life.
David Haegert, M.D.
McGill University
Montreal, QC, Canada
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,738.83
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“T-cell activation molecules and progressive MS” Finding a biomarker that can be tested in blood samples of people with MS could help predict the rate of disease progression and help determine the most appropriate therapy.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Christina Wolfson, Ph.D.
McGill University
Montreal, QC, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 131,144

“Developing a Tool-Kit of epidemiological resources for etiological research in pediatric MS” Identifying high-quality questionnaires and other resources to allow researchers to search for factors that trigger MS in children and adults.

Fang Liu, M.D., Ph.D.
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Toronto, ON, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropharmacology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 450,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis” Studying whether an experimental therapy can limit damage to nerve cells as a first step to develop a new treatment for MS.

Tak Mak, Ph.D.
The Ontario Cancer Institute
Toronto, ON, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 581,089
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Targeting Multiple Sclerosis by inhibiting the Malt1 dependent switch in T cell encephalitogenicity.” Controlling formation of harmful T cells may be a novel therapeutic strategy in MS.

E. Yeh, M.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, ON, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 352,950
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2020

“Pediatric MS: Shaping the future of outcomes and disability” This training program at the University of Toronto Hospital for Sick Children will equip researchers with experience and knowledge to design and conduct research aimed at improving wellness in children with MS.
E. Yeh, M.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, ON, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $39,992
Term: 6/1/2014-5/31/2015

“Physical Activity in Pediatric MS: Barriers and Facilitators” Determining levels of physical activity in kids with MS, and what barriers exist to increasing activity in this population.

Anthony Feinstein, M.D.
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: €41,000
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2015

“Rehabilitation Collaborative Study” Gathering published information on optimal exercise and cognitive rehab programs for people with progressive MS.

E. Yeh, M.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, ON, Canada
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $565,925
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Treatment adherence in pediatric multiple sclerosis” Finding ways to improve the rate at which children and adolescents with MS take their medications as prescribed.

Susan Forwell, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $215,078
Term: 7/1/2010-10/1/2015

“UBC MS Rehabilitation Fellowship” Serving as a mentor to train promising clinician-scientists in rehabilitation research specific to MS.

Marc Horwitz, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $608,493
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“How latent gammaherpesvirus enhances EAE pathology: implications on EBV's role in the etiology of MS” Studying the role of Epstein-Barr virus in a model of MS for clues to a possible MS trigger.
**Helen Tremlett, B.S.Pharm., Ph.D.**  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Epidemiology  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 246,433  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

**“Do the beta-interferons prolong life in people with multiple sclerosis?”** Investigating if the beta interferons can extend the survival of people with MS.

**Helen Tremlett, B.S.Pharm., Ph.D.**  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Epidemiology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 1,051,046  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

**“Prodromal Multiple Sclerosis: The PrOMS Study”** How early before its diagnosis can MS be detected?

**Helen Tremlett, B.S.Pharm., Ph.D.**  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC, Canada  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Therapy/Management of MS  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 286,059  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

**“Adherence to Immunomodulators in Multiple Sclerosis: Prevalence and Clinical Impact (The AIMS Study)”** Examining how following the recommendations for taking MS drugs affects the course of the disease.

**FRANCE**

**Anne Simone Baron-Van Evercooren, Ph.D.**  
Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale- INSERM U975  
Paris, France  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 407,613  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

**“Molecular and cellular analysis of the PNS/CNS boundary”** Using myelin-making cells from outside the brain and spinal cord to repair MS lesions.

**Yossan-Var Tan, Ph.D.**  
Faculté de Médecine et Pharmacie de Rouen  
Rouen Cedex, France  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 453,350  
Term: 1/1/2014-6/30/2015

**“Identification and targeting of vip and pacap receptor subtypes in EAE”** Finding ways to control the immune system attack in a model of MS.
GERMANY

Stefan Gold, Ph.D.  
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf  
Hamburg, Germany  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 490,935  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018  
“Molecular mechanisms of T cell dysfunction in multiple sclerosis-associated major depression”

Researchers at Charité University Medical Center in Berlin, Germany are investigating the possible link between immune system dysfunction and depression in people with MS.

Christoph Heesen, M.D.  
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf  
Hamburg, Germany  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship  
Program  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 396,392  
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2018  
“Development and validation of behavioural interventions to enhance self-management in MS”

Training in research aimed at developing ways to help people with MS enhance their knowledge and ability for managing their disease.

ISRAEL

Alon Kalron, Ph.D.  
Sheba Medical Center  
Herzela, Israel  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 42,900  
Term: 6/1/2014-5/31/2015  
“Efficacy of virtual reality training on postural control in people with multiple sclerosis”

Evaluating a virtual reality intervention for improving balance in people with MS.

Netta Levin, M.D., Ph.D.  
Medical Research Fund of Hadassah Medical Organization  
Jerusalem, Israel  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 362,150  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017  
“Temporal reorganization to overcome monocular demyelination – unique plasticity mechanism in MS”

Understanding how the brain compensates for damage to restore visual function in people with MS.

ITALY

Carla Taveggia, Ph.D.  
Fondazione Centro San Raffaele  
Milan, Italy  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 416,760  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016  
“Role of ADAM 17 in CNS myelination and remyelination”

Understanding how nerve-insulating myelin is controlled to promote repair in the brains of people with MS.
Magdalena Zoledziewska, Ph.D.
Istituto di Ricerca Genetica e Biomedica National Research Council
Milan, Italy
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 40,000
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015
“Defining the gut microbial composition and function in MS patients thorough meta-genomic sequencing, targeted 16S RNA sequencing and faecal metaproteome screening” Comparing gut bacteria from people with and without MS, for clues to the immune attack in MS.

Massimiliano Calabrese, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Verona
Verona, Italy
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 68,672.92
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015
“Can the degree of meningeal inflammation and cortical pathology be used to stratify early progressive MS patients?” Being able to address and vigorously treat a severe course of MS as early as possible is crucial to stopping progression in its tracks.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

NEW ZEALAND

CuroNZ ,
Auckland, New Zealand
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General Fund
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 560,000
Term: 8/25/2013-11/30/2014
“Preclinical proof-of-concept studies of a neural regenerative peptide that targets CXCR4” Preclinical proof-of-concept of neural regeneration peptide, NRP2945, in MS.

SPAIN

Xavier Montalban, M.D., Ph.D.
Hospital Vall Hebron
Barcelona, Spain
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,250.00
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015
“Search of biomarkers in patients with progressive multiple sclerosis” Focusing on molecular mechanisms that operate during progressive phases of MS and which might be blocked by therapies to stop progression.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Bionure, Inc. ,
Barcelona, Spain
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General Fund
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 762,416
Term: 1/6/2015-7/6/2016
“Development of BN201 to enable IND filing to support the Phase 1 clinical study in Acute Optic Neuritis (AON)” Conducting pre-clinical testing of a compound with potential to protect the nervous system and repair nerve-insulating myelin.
**SWEDEN**

Tomas Olsson, MD, FRCP(C), PhD
Karolinska Institute
Stockholm, Sweden
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,250.00
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“MS genetic and environmental factors for severity/progression through studies of complications including spasticity, pain, depression, urogenital complications, sick leave/pension/income using Swedish registries for comparisons/interaction analysis.” This study could pave the way for new therapeutic strategies, and help define lifestyle and environmental factors that may provide clues to preventing or stopping MS.

Title: MS genetic and environmental factors for severity/progression through studies of complications

Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

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Anders Svenningsson, M.D., Ph.D.
Dept of Pharmacology and Clinical Neuroscience,
Umeå University, Sweden
Umé, Sweden
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,800.00
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Intrathecal monoclonal antibody therapy and cerebral microdialysis in progressive multiple sclerosis” This study can answer the question of whether there is ongoing inflammation in the brains of people with progressive MS, and whether rituximab has potential as a treatment for progression.

Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

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**THE NETHERLANDS**

Sandra Amor, Ph.D.
University Hospital Vrije Universiteit-VUMC
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,998.88
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Immune-primed microglia: a factor underlying progressive multiple sclerosis” Understanding the impact of age on inflammation and repair may help to identify new avenues to counteract age-induced changes and prevent them from causing MS to progress.

Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

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Frank Baas, M.D., Ph.D.
Academic Medical Center
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: Research Grants

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 617,522

“Defining the roles of complement in secondary progressive MS and EAE” Determining how an immune component, called complement, may worsen secondary-progressive MS.
Maarten Kole, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: Research Grants
“Spike generation in demyelinated axons; a molecular and functional analysis of the axon initial segment” Understanding electrical impulse dysfunction in MS that occurs following the destruction of myelin.

Charlotte Teunissen, Ph.D.
University Hospital Vrije Universiteit-VUMC
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
“Discovery of biomarkers reflecting progression pathophysiology for primary progressive MS subtype by applying next generation sequencing and novel multiplex aptamer approach.” Having reliable biomarkers would greatly increase the ability to determine the best therapy for an individual, and offer clues to the underlying causes of MS progression.

Jack van Horssen, Ph.D.
University Hospital Vrije Universiteit-VUMC
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
“Inflammation drives mitochondrial dysfunction and associated neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis” This project will significantly contribute to our understanding of mechanisms underlying progressive MS, and provide a potential basis for the development of new therapeutics to stop neurodegeneration and progression.

UNITED KINGDOM
GE Healthcare Limited
Amersham, United Kingdom
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General Fund
“Clinical Evaluation of the ability of a TSPO-targeting PET imaging agent to enable monitoring of disease modifying therapy in MS” Evaluating the ability of a PET imaging agent (GE180) as a tracer to monitor/detect neuroinflammation and response to disease modifying treatment in MS.
Alastair Wilkins, F.R.C.P., M.A., M.B.B.S., Ph.D.
University of Bristol
Bristol, United Kingdom
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 39,951
“Developing a novel model to simulate axonal motor protein deficits in progressive multiple sclerosis” Testing a mechanism that may underlie MS progression, for clues to stopping progression in its tracks.

Linda Wooldridge, Ph.D.
University of Bristol
Bristol, United Kingdom
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Funding: $ 38,440
Term: 4/1/2014-8/31/2015
“Targeting the CD8 coreceptor as a novel strategy for the treatment of multiple sclerosis” Exploring a strategy for stopping the immune attack in MS models without blocking the benefits of immune protection against infection.

International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium (IMSGC),
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 72,778.20
Term: 8/1/2014-1/31/2016
“Establishing the resource for a genetic analysis of progression” This resource could provide a means to identify the key biological processes determining progression in MS, and point the way to selecting rational targets for therapy development.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Don Mahad, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,868.20
Term: 8/1/2014-12/31/2015
“Cause and consequences of mitochondrial injury in progressive multiple sclerosis” If this research verifies a crucial role for damaged mitochondria in MS progression, it may identify new approaches to protecting nerve cells from harm to stop or prevent progression.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Don Mahad, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 551,702
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017
“Mitochondria and mechanisms of axon degeneration in progressive MS” Exploring energy failure in cells as one possible cause of progressive MS.
**Gavin Giovannoni, M.D., Ph.D.**
Queen Mary University of London  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $779,538  
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“CSF neurofilaments: a novel phase 2a neuroprotective trial in early SPMS” Can a protein in spinal fluid serve as a signal that shows whether a therapy tested for secondary-progressive MS can protect the nervous system?

**Paul Matthews, M.D., Ph.D.**
Imperial College London  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: €74,994.53  
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Novel enabling infrastructure for outcomes monitoring: dynamic remote performance capture to assess disability in progressive multiple sclerosis” Providing real-time information about symptoms and disability progression can help to track the course of MS and determine the effectiveness of treatments designed to stop progression.  
*Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members*

**Sarah Morrow, F.R.C.P., M.D., M.S.**
University of Western Ontario  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $41,898  
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“Safety of driving in MS patients with low physical disability and cognitive impairment” Gaining a better understanding compensatory movement control strategy of walking in MS.

**Kenneth Smith, Ph.D.**
University College London  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Neuropathology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $606,444  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“Towards a greater understanding of multiple sclerosis: recognising the importance of hypoxia, and new opportunities for therapy.” Can damage to the nervous system be reduced by therapeutically increasing tissue oxygen concentrations?

**Jonathan Marsden, B.S, M.Sc., Ph.D.**
Plymouth University  
Plymouth, United Kingdom  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: €74,895.41  
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“The effects of oculomotor retraining on upper and lower limb function in progressive MS. A proof of concept study” This study could lead to the further testing of a strategy to reduce ataxia in people with MS, potentially providing a solution that improves their daily lives.  
*Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members*
PROJECTS WITHIN THE U.S.A

ALABAMA

Wei Liu, Ph.D.  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Compensatory Movement Strategies of Walking in Multiple Sclerosis-Induced Acceleration Analysis”  
Exploring a novel strategy for improving walking in MS.

Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL  
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards  
“Collaborative MS Center Award”  
Developing and evaluating novel immune system-modulating therapies for MS that can turn off immune attacks and protect nerve tissues.

Gordon Meares, Ph.D.  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
“LKB1 and AMPK Signaling in Neuroinflammation”  
Studying how cells in the brain and spinal cord may influence the immune system in MS, for clues to stopping immune attacks.

ARIZONA

Michael Halpern, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.  
RTI International  
Tucson, AZ  
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts  
“Secondary Analysis of Existing Data Sets: Level of Care and Cost Differences between MS Patients Receiving Care at MS Centers versus at Neurology Outpatient Practices”  
Understanding the care received by people with MS at MS centers vs. private practice to ensure quality care for all people with MS.
Lynn Hudson, Ph.D.
Critical Path Institute
Tucson, AZ
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 4,938,260
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2016

“Qualifying Clinical Outcome Assessments through a Multiple Sclerosis Consortium (MSC)”
Analyzing data from MS clinical trials to develop a more sensitive tool for evaluating the benefits of treatments on clinical symptoms and progression of MS.

CALIFORNIA
Lisa Barcellos, Ph.D.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 350,772
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2017

“Longitudinal Assessment of Disease Progression and Cognitive Status in Multiple Sclerosis: A Comprehensive Web-Based Approach for Clinical Research and Translation to Care”
Researchers in California and Buffalo are designing a web-based tool to collect data regarding individuals’ MS disease progression, mood and cognitive symptoms over time to improve understanding of the disease and clinical care.

Glialogix, Inc. ,
Glialogix, Inc.
Greenbrae, CA
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General Fund
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 456,222
Term: 8/29/2014-8/29/2015

“Preclinical and Formulation Work on a Sulfasalazine Compound”
Reformulation and efficacy studies of GLX1112 for neuroprotection to treat progressive forms of multiple sclerosis.

Sunil Gandhi, Ph.D. (Transfer Pending)
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 465,478

“Understanding the role of Wnt/beta-catenin signaling pathway in repairing blood-brain barrier breakdown during multiple sclerosis.”
Investigating whether closing the blood-brain barrier can help treat EAE, a disease model similar to MS, and its implications for developing new treatments for MS.

Sarah Lutz, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-8/31/2016

“Wnt Signaling in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis”
Exploring ways to reduce the entry of destructive immune cells into the brain as a possible approach to stopping MS attacks.
Craig Walsh, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $262,943
Term: 11/1/2013-10/31/2015

“Collaborative MS Center Award” A multifaceted effort to explore cell replacement strategies for repairing damage in MS.

Funded in part by a gift from MS Hope for a Cure

Harvey Checkoway, M.P.H., Ph.D.
University of California San Diego
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $334,394
Term: 8/1/2013-7/31/2015

“Lifetime UVB Exposure, Vitamin D, and Multiple Sclerosis in a Cohort of U.S. Radiologic Technologists” Using a questionnaire to explore the role of exposure to sunlight with the risk of developing MS.

Michael David, Ph.D., Pharm.D.
University of California San Diego
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $660,000
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“The IRF - type I interferon system in autoimmunity and immune tolerance” Studying the delicate balance of the immune system to understand the causes of MS.

Barbara Ranscht, Ph.D.
The Burnham Institute
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $754,279
Term: 9/1/2011-9/30/2015

“Contactin functions in oligodendrocyte-mediated myelination and remyelination” Exploring a key molecule that influences the formation and repair of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to restoring myelin in MS.

Ye Zheng, Ph.D.
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $483,756

“Protective Role of REV-ERBs in EAE” Investigating how to turn off the activity of immune system cells that participate in the immune attacks involved in MS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rashed Nagra, Ph.D.</strong></th>
<th>Brentwood Biomedical Research Institute</th>
<th>Category: Tissue/DNA Banks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Award: Research Grants</td>
<td>Strategic Area: END</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Funding: $1,268,602</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Term: 11/1/2009-9/30/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Human brain and spinal fluid resource center”</td>
<td>Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pablo Paez, Ph.D.</strong></th>
<th>University of California, Los Angeles</th>
<th>Category: Biology of Glia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Award: Research Grants</td>
<td>Strategic Area: RESTORE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Funding: $277,506</td>
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<td>Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Modulation of oligodendrocyte function and myelination by the golli proteins”</td>
<td>Studying ways to enhance the manufacture and repair of myelin in an animal model of MS.</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Nancy Sicotte, M.D.</strong></th>
<th>Cedars-Sinai Medical Center</th>
<th>Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Award: Research Grants</td>
<td>Strategic Area: STOP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funding: $241,982</td>
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<td>Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Tracking Hippocampal Subregional Atrophy in Multiple Sclerosis: Effect of Estriol Treatment”</td>
<td>Using a novel MRI technique to evaluate the potential impacts of estriol treatment on the nervous system during a clinical trial in women with MS.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th><strong>William Stohl, M.D., Ph.D.</strong></th>
<th>University of Southern California</th>
<th>Category: Immunology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Award: Research Grants</td>
<td>Strategic Area: STOP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Funding: $521,806</td>
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<td>Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The role of the BAFF axis in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis”</td>
<td>Studying the potential for a new treatment approach for MS by altering a molecule that influences immune system cells.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D.</strong></th>
<th>University of California, Los Angeles</th>
<th>Category: Neuropathology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Award: Research Grants</td>
<td>Strategic Area: STOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Funding: $505,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Sex Chromosome Effects in the CNS during EAE”</td>
<td>Looking at how genes on the chromosomes that determine gender may influence the severity of MS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
James Waschek, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

“Systemic delivery and CNS targeting of PACAP using novel AAV vectors in a chronic progressive EAE model: Protection from axonopathy and neuron loss” Investigating a neuroprotective strategy in mouse models of MS.

James Waschek, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grants

“Neuropeptide PACAP/VPAC2 Receptor Signaling in the Regulation of Natural Treg Expansion in EAE” Investigating a messenger molecule that may control damage to the nervous system and may have potential as a target for future therapies aimed at stopping MS.

Annette Langer-Gould, M.D., Ph.D.
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
Pasadena, CA
Award: Research Grants

“Modifiable Risk Factors of Postpartum MS Relapses” Exploring factors that may affect the risk of an MS relapse after delivery of a child.

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA
Award: Research Grants

“Preservation of axons by Estrogen Receptor Beta signaling induced axon remyelination in a chronic mouse model of multiple sclerosis” Can estrogen-like compounds protect the brain from MS damage? Transferred from UCLA

Wenbin Deng, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis
Sacramento, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

“TARGETING ZFP488 FOR PROMOTING REMYELINATION” Exploring a molecule that may help to instruct repair in MS models.
David Pleasure, M.D.
University of California, Davis
Sacramento, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 519,547
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Minimizing axon loss in a murine multiple sclerosis model by conditionally deleting astroglial CCL2 (MCP-1)” Exploring how specific cells contribute to nerve damage and progression in a model of MS.

Athena Soulika, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis
Sacramento, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“Role of 5-lipoxygenase in the inflamed CNS” Studying an enzyme that may affect myelin-making cells in MS.

Ari Green, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarships
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 771,772
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

“In vivo neuronal imaging after demyelinating injury to the visual pathway” Developing a technique to measure the health and injury of nerve cells, as a potential tool for quickly evaluating the potential of therapies to protect the nervous system in MS.

Joan Heller Brown, Ph.D.
University of California San Diego
San Diego, CA
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - Merck Serono Fund
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 285,000
Term: 10/1/2013-4/1/2015

“Discovery of GPCRs regulating astrocyte function in multiple sclerosis” Finding molecules that bind to “G protein coupled receptors” to identify therapeutic targets in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Katerina Akassoglou, Ph.D.
The J. David Gladstone Institutes
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 567,422
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“Role of fibrinogen in the inhibition of oligodendrocyte differentiation” Can a blood protein that may inhibit myelin repair in MS be overridden to spur repair?

Funded by a gift from an Anonymous Donor in honor of JoAnn LeMaistre, PhD
Sergio Baranzini, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 800,898
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2020

“The MS Microbiome Consortium (MSMC): an academic multi-disciplinary collaborative effort to elucidate the role of the gut microbiota in MS” With this support to the MS Microbiome Consortium, a multi-center team is conducting a comprehensive analysis of gut bacteria in people with MS to determine factors that may drive progression and help to develop probiotic strategies for stopping progressi

2014 Stephen C. Reingold Research Award for most outstanding research proposal

Sergio Baranzini, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 75,000.00
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Genetic analysis of high-resolution imaging endophenotypes in MS progression” If this project successfully enables better understanding of how and why MS progresses in certain people, it would enable doctors to give more accurate prognoses to individuals, inform treatment decisions, and help stop progression in its tracks.

Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Jonah Chan, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 594,652
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“A Functional High-thoughtput Screen for Remyelination: Muscarinic Receptors Regulate Oligodendrocyte Differentiation and Myelination” Screening large numbers of molecules that may be useful for stimulating myelin repair in MS.

Myriam Chaumeil, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 43,978

“Non-invasive assessment of macrophages polarization status in MS using hyperpolarized 13C Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopic Imaging” Using novel imaging to differentiate between helpful and harmful immune cells.
Andres Cruz-Herranz, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 195,427
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Longitudinal Screening of Neuroprotective Therapies in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis with Optical Coherence Tomography”  Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco are imaging the back of the eye to visualize signs of myelin repair in mice as a means of identifying agents with potential to stimulate myelin repair in people with MS.

Stephen Fancy, D.V.M., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 516,621
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Remyelination failure in MS- Mediators and control mechanisms of Pathological Wnt activity.” Exploring why myelin is not well repaired in MS and targeting a protein as a strategy to promote myelin repair.

Carla Francisco, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 195,000
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Clinical Research/Sylvia Lawry”  A promising doctor at the University of California, San Francisco will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Jennifer Graves, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 43,810

“Sex specific aging and multiple sclerosis phenotype”  Studying whether a link exists between hormonal aging and MS progression.

Peder Larson, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Ultrashort Echo Time Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Myelin and Meninges in Multiple Sclerosis” Exploring the potential of a novel imaging technique for characterizing damage in people with MS.
Klaus Lehmann-Horn, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $195,633
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2017
“Role of B cells in spontaneous chronic CNS autoimmune disease” Exploring the role of immune “B cells” in MS disease progression.
Funded by a gift from an Anonymous Donor in honor of JoAnn LeMaistre, PhD

Bardia Nourbakhsh, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017
“Application for MS Clinical research fellowship at UCSF” Training to design and conduct MS clinical trials.

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $1,560,377
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017
“Establishment of a Core DNA Repository for Multiple Sclerosis” Banking genetic material from individuals and families with MS as a shared resource for studies searching for genes that confer susceptibility to MS.

David Rowitch, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $529,904
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017
“Oligodendrocyte-mediated vascular remodeling of white matter in development and remyelination” How do cells that form myelin obtain the oxygen supply they need to ramp up myelin repair?

H.-Christian von Büdingen, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $485,808
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“Characteristics of disease-relevant B cell repertoires in MS” Examining the relationship between B cells in the blood and those in the brain to improve MS diagnosis and therapy.
Emmanuelle Waubant, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 542,554
“Microbiomes in pediatric multiple sclerosis” Understanding the association between microbes in the digestive tract and the risk of developing MS in childhood.
Funded in part by a gift from an Anonymous Donor in honor of JoAnn LeMaistre, PhD

Scott Zamvil, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 511,965
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017
“Characterization of novel MOG T cell epitopes shared in EAE and MS” Studying how harmful immune cells involved in MS attacks recognize proteins in nerve-insulating myelin.

Scott Zamvil, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 614,600
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“Aquaporin-4 (AQP4)-specific T cells in CNS autoimmunity” Distinguishing immune responses in MS and neuromyelitis optica.

Scott Zamvil, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 633,840
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018
“Nrf2-dependent and –independent immune modulation by dimethyl fumarate in CNS autoimmunity” University of California, San Francisco researchers are investigating how an approved MS therapy called Tecfidera works to dampen the harmful effects of the immune system.

Ben Barres, M.D., Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 505,936
Term: 1/1/2013-12/31/2015
“How does the actin cytoskeleton control CNS myelination?” Basic exploration of how myelin is made, with the goal of finding ways to repair damaged myelin in people with MS.
Meng-meng Fu, B.S, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 166,724
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Regulation of MBP mRNA Transport in Oligodendrocytes” Researchers at Stanford University are investigating how a protein critical to the formation of nerve-insulating myelin is made and how its message is transported, to gather information that may be critical to finding a way to repair myelin in people with

Naresha Saligrama, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 163,103
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“Immunophenotypic Analysis, Determination of Clonal Diversity, and Specificity of T cell Repertoire in MS and EAE” Determining which type of immune cells tend to make MS worse.

Raymond Sobel, M.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 75,000.00
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Azetidine-induced oligodendrogliopathy” If susceptibility to MS is due at least in part to exposure to a dietary component early in life, this will suggest ways to prevent and perhaps treat MS.

Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Lawrence Steinman, M.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grants

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 510,975
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Pre-Clinical Studies on Predictive Serum Biomarker for Response to beta-interferon in Relapsing Remitting MS” Attempting to find a way to predict who will respond to treatment with interferon beta.

Lawrence Steinman, M.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grants

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 445,000
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“Second Re-application for Competitive Renewal of Recombinant Crystallins for Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis-Tip of an Iceberg of Guardian Amyloids Including Crystallins, Prion, Tau, Amyloid Beta and Others” Developing a new class of therapeutics for possible application in MS.

Funded by a gift from an Anonymous Donor in honor of JoAnn LeMaistre, PhD
“Genetic mechanisms of CNS myelination” Identifying genes involved in the production of myelin to find new ways to repair damaged myelin in MS.

“Mechanism and function of myelin basic protein mRNA localization in oligodendrocytes” How do the instructions to make nerve-insulating myelin move from inside the cell out to where its construction occurs?

“Generation of transplantable myelinating glia from human fibroblasts” Can skin cells be used to produce cells that will repair damaged myelin in MS?

“What is the cellular mechanism of CNS myelin wrapping?” Can understanding the role of cellular “scaffolding” in the formation of nerve-insulating myelin provide new targets to promote myelin repair in MS?

“A B lymphocyte-targeted but non-depleting therapy For MS” Testing the effectiveness of a novel therapy that targets B cells in a model of MS.
Jonathan Campbell, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 43,934
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015


John Corboy, M.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Research Grants
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 214,607
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015

“Rocky Mountain MS Center Tissue Bank” Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Jeffrey Hebert, P.T., Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 536,295
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“C - Vestibular rehabilitation for persons with multiple sclerosis: who benefits the most?” The potential of balance and eye movement training for improving mobility in people with MS.

Wendy Macklin, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 692,452
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2017

“Mechanisms of glial injury in demyelinating disorders” Exploring brain cell interactions to shed new light on how damage occurs in MS and how to reverse the process to restore function to people with MS.
Funded jointly by the Hackstock Family Foundation and the National MS Society Colorado-Wyoming Chapter

Wendy Macklin, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 587,653
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Role of integrin linked kinase in CNS myelination” Investigating a protein that may help steer myelin repair cells to areas of damage, which may have important implications for efforts to repair the nervous system in MS.
“Developing zebrafish as a drug screen model” University of Colorado researchers are investigating the usefulness of a type of fish called zebrafish to rapidly screen drugs that may someday be useful for stimulating repair of nerve-insulating myelin in people with MS.

“Integration of Nuclear Receptor signaling cascades during myelination in zebrafish.” Searching for clues to promoting myelin repair by exploring details of the myelin-making process.

“Role of ERK1/2 in Myelin Assembly, Maintenance and Remyelination” Searching for ways to encourage repair of nerve-protecting myelin in people with MS.
Stefan Brocke, M.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 612,252
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2015
“The role of PDE8 in EAE” Investigating a new way to potentially prevent the immune system attack that damages the nervous system in a model of MS.

Robert Clark, M.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 650,846
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2015
“Novel bacteriological lipids of commensal organisms promote EAE” Looking at how lipids from bacteria that live in humans might trigger the immune system to attack myelin in MS.

Stephen Crocker, B.S, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 529,124
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016
“TIMP-1 Regulation of Oligodendrocyte Differentiation for CNS Remyelination” Understanding how myelin repair may be improved with a molecule called TIMP-1.

Joel Pachter, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 407,637
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“Resolving the roles for astrocyte- and endothelial cell-derived CCL2 during evolution of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis” Understanding the functions of a molecule and its potential as a target for therapy in progressive MS.

David Hafler, M.D., M.S.
Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 825,000
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2020
“Collaborative MS Research Center Award: Systematic Genome Editing of the Risk Variants in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Yale, Harvard, and two University of California institutions have teamed up to apply highly advanced technology to manipulate MS risk genes to tease out the exact pathways by which MS develops.
David Hafler, M.D., M.S.
Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 545,399
Term: 4/1/2014-4/1/2017

“Can a High Salt Diet Drive Induction of Pathogenic T Cells in Humans?” Can a high salt diet drive contribute to the development and severity of MS?

Christoph Juchem, Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 43,944
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Study of MS Tissue Injury and Repair with In Vivo Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy of Lipids and Proteins” Applying a novel imaging technique at an ultra-high magnetic field to validate its usefulness for MS diagnosis and research.

Christoph Juchem, Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 633,900
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“In Vivo Metabolomics of Oxidative Stress with 7 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy” Researchers at Yale are using two imaging techniques to determine the distribution and importance of the antioxidant glutathione in the brains of people with MS.

Jeffery Kocsis, Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 585,327
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2016

“Transplantation of OPCs into the demyelinated spinal cord” Evaluating the transplantation of myelin-producing cells to repair damaged myelin in an animal model, for clues to the possible safety and benefit in people with MS.

Siobhan Ni Choileain, B.S, M.S.
Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 163,103
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“Gene and protein expression signature of Th1-Tregs and their role in MS” Looking at the role of immune T cells in MS inflammation and studying ways to modulate it to treat MS.
David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000
“Using patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cells to model the effect of glutathione S-transferase polymorphisms on neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis.” Using advanced technology to explore the reason for MS variability.

David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 459,905
Term: 12/1/2012-11/30/2015
“Iron as biomarker for inflammatory activity in MS lesions” Investigating the use of an advanced MRI technique to measure immune system activity in MS lesions.

David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,999.86
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015
“Using patient-specific, iPSC-derived neurons to model neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis.” If some people are genetically predisposed to sensitivity to glutamate, this subset of individuals may benefit from therapies that address excessive glutamate to slow or stop disease progression. 

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Vittorio Gallo, Ph.D.
The Children’s National Medical Center
Washington, DC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 672,838
“Role of Sox17 in developmental myelinization and remyelination” Investigating a protein that helps regulate the activity of myelin forming cells and its role in nervous system repair.

Jeffrey Huang, Ph.D.
Georgetown University
Washington, DC
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 620,386
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017
“Role of retinoic acid synthesis in CNS remyelination” Exploring the role of a molecule in myelin repair and its potential as a target for restoring function in people with MS.
**FLORIDA**

**Dorina Avram, Ph.D.**  
University of Florida (Transfer Pending)  
Gainesville, FL  
Award: Research Grants  
“A novel ubiquitin ligase with role in EAE severity” Can understanding a regulator of immune cell function translate into the development of a treatment to stop immune attacks in MS?

**Brad E. Hoffman, Ph.D.**  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL  
Award: Research Grants  
“In Vivo Induction of Antigen Specific T-Cell Tolerance to a Neuro-Antigen by AAV Hepatic Gene Therapy” University of Florida researchers are exploring a way to prevent or treat MS, using the EAE model, by inducing immune tolerance.

**Jacob McCauley, Ph.D.**  
John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics  
Miami, FL  
Award: Research Grants  
“Exploring Multiple Sclerosis Genetics in Hispanics” Looking for genes that make people susceptible to developing MS in individuals of the U.S. Hispanic population.
Funded in part by a gift from the National MS Society South Florida Chapter

**Melissa Ortega, M.D.**  
University of Miami  
Miami, FL  
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General Fund  
“A Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Axona for Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis” A study to examine the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of Axona, a medical food, for the treatment of cognitive dysfunction in MS.

**GEORGIA**

**Deborah Backus, B.S, P.T., Ph.D.**  
Shepherd Center  
Atlanta, GA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Pilot study evaluating the impact of functional electrical stimulation cycling on fatigue in people with moderate to severe MS” A trial testing whether FES cycling improves fatigue in people with fatigue who depend on wheelchairs for mobility.
Jennifer Blanchfield, Ph.D.
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 169,946
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“CD4+ T cell affinities to MOG and NFM self antigens determine the course of chronic, demyelinating autoimmune disease” Understanding how specific immune T cells drive progression of MS symptoms by studying an MS model.

Randy Hall, Ph.D.
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - Merck Serono Fund
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 471,333
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015

“Targeting the Oligodendrocyte-Enriched Receptors GPR37 and GPR37L1 To Treat MS” Targeting the oligodendrocyte-enriched receptors GPR37 and GPR37L1 to treat multiple sclerosis.

Manning Sabatier, Ph.D.
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,980
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“The effect of downslope walking on spinal excitability in people with multiple sclerosis” Exploring slope walking as a way to enhance spinal function and reduce spasticity in MS.

Abiodun Akinwuntan, P.T., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Georgia Health Sciences University
Augusta, GA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 359,569
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Assessment and rehabilitaion of fitness-to-drive in individual with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)” Evaluating ways to measure and improve the driving ability of people with MS.

IOWA

Alexander Boyden, Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 161,218
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“The role of CD8+ regulatory T cells in modulating B cell function during EAE” Researchers at the University of Iowa are investigating the influence of two types of immune cells on each other to better understand and treat MS.
Nitin Karandikar, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 712,800  
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2017

“ROLE OF CNS-SPECIFIC AUTOREACTIVE CD8+ T CELLS IN MS” 
Looking for ways to treat MS by improving the action of cells that control the immune system attack on myelin.

2012 Stephen C. Reingold Award for most outstanding research proposal

Ashutosh Mangalam, Ph.D.
University of Iowa (transfer pending)  
Iowa City, IA  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Therapy/Management of MS  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 563,264  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Therapeutic potential of combination therapy using Human Gut-derived commensal bacteria and conventional MS drugs” 
Testing the beneficial effects of gut bacteria in MS models.

Stanley Perlman, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Infectious Agents  
Strategic Area: END  
Funding: $ 103,125  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Pathogenesis of Demyelination in Mice Infected with a Neurotropic Coronavirus” 
Looking for a way to specifically control immune system attacks against myelin in a viral disease similar to MS, for clues to stopping MS and ending it forever.

Stanley Perlman, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Infectious Agents  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 562,612  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Pathogenesis of Demyelination in Mice Infected with a Neurotropic Coronavirus” 
University of Iowa researchers are investigating ways to manipulate the immune system in a way that turns off the harmful effects and maintains the helpful effects as a strategy for treating MS.

ILLINOIS
Chung-Yi Chiu, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Champaign, IL  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 44,000  
Term: 9/1/2014-9/30/2015

“The Health Action Process Approach for Physical Activity Self-management in People with MS” 
Setting the foundation for the design and delivery of a behavioral intervention for increasing physical activity and decreasing sedentary behavior in people with MS.
Laura Rice, PT, PhD
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, IL
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,987
Term: 4/1/2014-9/30/2015

“Management of Fall Risk in Non-Community Ambulators affected by Multiple Sclerosis” Testing a method of reducing falls in homebound people with MS.

Alexander Aruin, D.Sc., Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 405,991
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

“Rehabilitation research training to enhance functional performance in MS” Training young scientists to conduct research in rehabilitation approaches to help people with MS achieve higher quality of life and maximal function.
Paid in part by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Melissa Brown, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilots
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 110,000
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2015

“Selectin-selectin ligand interactions that regulate immune cell trafficking to the CNS” Understanding molecules that direct immune cells into the brain and spinal cord in MS-like disease and possible ways to stop them.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Melissa Brown, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 560,802
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Meningeal mast cells as orchestrators of inflammation in EAE” Identifying new targets for MS therapy that prevent immune cells from gaining access to the central nervous system.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Melissa Brown, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 589,722
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“c-kit differentially regulates EAE susceptibility in male and female SJL mice” Northwestern University researchers are testing the role of a molecule called c-kit in sex-specific differences in the immune response and protection of neurons in a rodent model of MS called EAE.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery
Ludovic D'auria, B.S, M.S., Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 169,946
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“The organization and the role of lipid domains during myelin modeling” The role of lipids in synthesis of myelin, the fatty substance that is attacked in the brain of people with MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Bo Fernhall, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 685,183
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“C - Exercise, Subclinical Atherosclerosis and Walking Mobility in Multiple Sclerosis” Evaluating a home-based exercise program with the potential to improve mobility and cardiovascular health in people with MS.
Paid in part by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Igal Ifergan, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 169,946
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“The Wnt Pathway as a Modulator of Tolerogenic APCs in MS” Exploring a molecular “switch” to turn on helpful immune system activity for leads to new treatment approaches to stop MS.

Howard Lipton, M.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 383,139
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Generic approaches for detecting a virus in MS in acute demyelinating lesions” University of Illinois at Chicago researchers are devising a method to detect the presence of viruses in newly forming MS lesions, in hopes of identifying the cause of MS and preventing its development.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Stephen Miller, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilots
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 110,000
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2015

“Combining Immune Regulation and Myelin Repair for Treatment of Relapsing EAE” Testing a combination of exploratory therapies to regulate immune activity and stimulate myelin repair in mouse models of MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery
Stephen Miller, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 519,750
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Mechanisms of Th1/Th17 regulation by B7-H4 Ig for the treatment of EAE” Understanding how immune system activity is regulated in MS, for clues to developing better treatments that specifically prevent damage to nerve-insulating myelin.

Stephen Miller, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 577,500
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Immunoregulation and Pathology of Chronic-Relapsing EAE” Improving MS therapies by more precisely targeting the parts of the immune system that are involved in MS attacks on the nervous system.

Brian Popko, Ph.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 594,000

“The DTA oligodendrocyte ablation model in the study of inflammatory demyelination” Using a newly developed model to uncover clues to factors that trigger myelin damage in MS.

Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Anthony Reder, M.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 845,350
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015

“Interferon resistance in MS” Evaluating how immune system signals may serve as biomarkers of future disease activity.

Paid in part by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Betty Soliven, M.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL.
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilots
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 110,000
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2015

“Autophagy in Oligodendroglial lineage cells” Exploring a process by which myelin-making cells may sustain damage in MS for clues to preventing that damage to maintain function.

Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery
Haley Titus-Mitchell, M.S.
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, IL
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $161,218
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Immunoregulatory and myelin repair therapies in T cell-mediated mouse models of Multiple Sclerosis.” Researchers at Northwestern University in Chicago are trying to develop a possible two-step approach to therapy for MS, making the immune system tolerant of myelin rather than attacking it, and promoting myelin repair.

Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Wen-Hsuan Way, Ph.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“The protective role of the integrated stress response (ISR) on oligodendrocytes during inflammatory demyelination” Studying a natural tissue response to damage and how it might be improved to stimulate repair of nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

Funded in part by a gift from the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund

Citlali Lopez-Ortiz, M.A., Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $42,849

“Targeted dance program for improved mobility in multiple sclerosis” Testing a dance program for improving MS symptoms.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilots
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $109,860
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2015

“Views and Ideas on Exercise Among People with Multiple Sclerosis (Project VIEWS)” Surveying people with MS to develop a program for promoting the adoption and lifelong maintenance of exercise and physical activity behavior to enhance wellness.

Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $368,074
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2019

“Training in Physical Activity Promotion for Multiple Sclerosis” Rehabilitation researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign have received five years of funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals in how to conduct MS rehabilitation research.
Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $625,024
Term: 4/1/2011-9/30/2015

“Project METS in MS: Multimodal exercise training stimulus in multiple sclerosis” Comparing the effectiveness of a comprehensive exercise regimen on mobility and other functions in people with advanced MS.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $1,154,236
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2018

“Project BIPAMS: Behavioral Intervention for increasing Physical Activity in MS” Using video chatting to increase exercise in people with MS and decrease symptoms.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilots
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $108,912
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2015

“Cognitive-motor interference rehabilitation in persons with multiple sclerosis” Examining whether rehabilitation aimed at performing one or more tasks can enhance functions in people with MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $627,770
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Fall Risk and Incidence Reduction in Multiple Sclerosis” Testing an exercise program to reduce the risk of falling in older people with MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Andrew Steelman, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000

“The effect of glial activation during peripheral infection on disease exacerbation in an animal model of multiple sclerosis” Exploring how infections may trigger MS relapses, for clues to relapse prevention.
**INDIANA**

Chang Kim, Ph.D.  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $460,416  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015  

“**Impact of short chain fatty acids produced by gut commensal bacteria on pathogenesis of CNS inflammation**”  
Looking at how molecules produced by bacteria in the intestines may influence immune system activity in the brain for clues to turning off immune attacks in MS.

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**KANSAS**

Jessie Huisinga, Ph.D.  
University of Kansas Medical Center - Kansas City  
Kansas City, KS  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $917,917  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017  

“**Identification of gait and balance deficits in patients with multiple sclerosis using wireless sensors**”  
Testing new methods to rapidly assess walking and balance problems in people with MS.

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**Theresa Shireman, B.S.Pharm., M.S., Ph.D.**  
University of Kansas Medical Center - Kansas City  
Kansas City, KS  
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts  
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $677,073  
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017  

“**Effectiveness of Medicaid's Home- and Community-Based Services for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis**”  
Optimizing home- and community-based services to maintain the independence of people with MS.

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**Catherine Siengsukon, P.T., Ph.D.**  
University of Kansas Medical Center - Kansas City  
Kansas City, KS  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Therapy/Management of MS  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $44,000  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015  

“**The effects of aerobic exercise on cognitive function and sleep quality in individuals with MS**”  
Conducting a trial of aerobic exercise to determine effects on cognitive function and sleep problems in people with MS.

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**KENTUCKY**

Malachy Bishop, Ph.D.  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY  
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts  
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $329,341  
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016  

“**Optimizing MS Care: Multiple Sclerosis Patients’ Perspectives and Priorities for Their MS Care**”  
Understanding the healthcare priorities and preferences of people with MS.
LOUISIANA

Jesus Lovera, M.D., M.S.P.H.  
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – N.O.  
New Orleans, LA  
Award: Research Grants  
“Safety and Neuroprotective Effects of Polyphenon E in MS”  
Investigating a novel complementary therapy to slow or stop progressive nerve damage in MS.

MARYLAND

Christopher Bever, M.D.  
University of Maryland at Baltimore  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Research Grants  
“Combination therapy with interferon beta and brain derived neurotropic factor in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis”  
Studying an experimental combination therapy for its ability to slow or halt long-term nerve damage in an animal model of MS.

Pavan Bhargava, M.B.B.S., M.D.  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
“Clinical research fellowship in Neuroimmunology: the application describes a training plan for a proposed fellowship at Johns Hopkins University under the mentorship of Dr. Peter Calabresi.”  
Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Jeff Bulte, Ph.D.  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Research Grants  
“Immunomodulation and Remyelination by Transplanted Stem Cells and Progenitors: A Two-Prong Approach”  
Can cell therapy reduce immune attacks and at the same time also stimulate the repair of nerve-insulating myelin in an MS model?  
*Funded in part by a gift from the National MS Society Greater Delaware Valley Chapter*

Peter Calabresi, M.D.  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards  
“Factors Regulating Oligodendrogliogenesis and Myelination in Multiple Sclerosis and Animal Models”  
Collaborators from different fields identifying factors that help to increase myelin-making cells, and using this knowledge to develop myelin repair strategies.  
*2011 Stephen C. Reingold Research Award for most outstanding research proposal*
Peter Calabresi, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, MD
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,997.96
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015
“A phase 1 open-label trial of intrathecal rituximab for progressive multiple sclerosis patients with magnetic resonance imaging evidence of leptomeningeal enhancement” This study may point to a new treatment approach for stopping MS progression in some people with MS, and also provide a new biomarker for tracking the success of this treatment.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

William Culpepper, M.A., Ph.D.
Veterans Administration Medical Center - Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 281,874
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016
“What is the comparative effectiveness of comprehensive care vs. usual care for patients with multiple sclerosis?” Exploring whether comprehensive care results in better outcomes for people with MS.

William Culpepper, M.A., Ph.D.
Veterans Administration Medical Center - Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 343,719
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016
“A Rasch-Based Comorbidity Measure for use in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis” Developing a tool for determining the impact of additional health conditions on outcomes for people with MS.

Adam Kaplin, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grants
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 615,298
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“Modulation of Glutamate Carboxypeptidase II activity to treat cognitive impairment in Multiple Sclerosis” The potential of specific molecules as possible therapies for treating cognitive problems in MS.

Michael Kornberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Biochem./Biophysics
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 259,590
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018
“The role and therapeutic potential of nitric oxide-induced nuclear GAPDH signaling in multiple sclerosis.” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are conducting preliminary lab tests to understand whether a therapy called selegiline may be useful for treating MS by blocking the harmful effects of a molecule called nitric oxide.
Abraham Langseth, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 178,391
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“The role of Megf11 in oligodendrocyte precursor cell engulfment and remyelination” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore are examining the role of a protein called Megf11 in oligodendrocyte maturation and the clean-up of myelin debris, which are both required for myelin repair.

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.P.H.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grants
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 1,312,902

“A randomized controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation in multiple sclerosis” A clinical trial investigating whether vitamin D supplements can alter disease activity in people with MS who are taking a standard therapy.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.P.H.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 781,377
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2020

“A pilot study of intermittent calorie restriction in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore are doing a pilot trial testing the safety and tolerability of a diet that intermittently restricts calorie intake as a treatment for disease activity in people with MS.

Scott Newsome, D.O.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grants
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 266,907
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2017

“A Phase 1b, open-label study to evaluate the safety and tolerability of the putative remyelinating agent, liothyronine, in individuals with MS” Johns Hopkins University researchers are performing a pilot clinical trial of people with MS to test a new therapy called liothyronine for its potential to improve repair of nerve-insulating myelin and protect nerve fibers.

Jennifer Orthmann-Murphy, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 263,622
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2017

“The role of reactive astrocytes in cortical demyelinating lesions” How do brain cells called astrocytes contribute to destructive processes active in MS?
Fengyi Wan, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $44,000  
Term: 6/1/2014-5/31/2015

“The role of a novel KH domain protein in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis”  Exploring a molecule that may serve as a target for stopping the immune attack in MS.

Katharine Whartenby, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $654,729  
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“The role of KLF4 in transcriptional activation of IL-17 and induction of EAE”  Determining the molecular switches that convert beneficial immune responses into harmful ones such as those involved in MS.  
*Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region*

Kathleen Zackowski, Ph.D.
Kennedy Krieger Research Institute  
Baltimore, MD  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $321,903  
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2020

“Advancing multiple sclerosis research through neuroscience”  This training program will equip two fellows with crucial clinical and research skills necessary to conduct rehabilitation research aimed at improving wellness for people with MS.

Martina Absinta, M.D.
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, MD  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Neuropathology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $191,042  
Term: 2/1/2016-1/31/2019

“Chronic inflammation and remyelination failure in MS lesions: in vivo and postmortem investigation of chronic lesions with phase rims”  Researchers at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda are using an advanced type of MRI to examine lesions with subtle inflammation in the brains of people with MS to better understand how inflammation affects myelin repair.

Regina Armstrong, Ph.D.
Henry M. Jackson Foundation  
Bethesda, MD  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $577,597  
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Enhancing neural stem cell activation to improve remyelination capacity and axon integrity following chronic demyelination”  Testing a strategy to repair damage that occurs in the nervous system of people with MS to possibly restore function.  
*Funded jointly by The National Stem Cell Foundation and the National MS Society Kentucky-SE Indiana Chapter*
Alessandra De Paula Alves Sousa, Ph.D.
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, MD
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 161,040
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Deep sequencing of T-cell receptor repertoire in patients with neurological immune-mediated disorders” Researchers at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke are using advanced technology to identify immune cell abnormalities in people with MS, for clues to improving treatment approaches.

Gabriela Dveksler, Ph.D.
Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 10/20/2014-11/30/2015

“Pregnancy specific glycoprotein 1, a potential new therapy for remitting-relapsing MS.” Exploring if an immune-modulating protein normally secreted by the human placenta can stop the immune attack in MS-like disease.

Jason Lees, Ph.D.
Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“MHC class II restricted chimeric antigen receptor mediated antigen presenting cell lysis as a strategy for antigen limitation and amelioration of EAE and MS” Exploring a novel strategy for stopping the immune attack on the brain and spinal cord in MS.

Matthew Schindler, M.D., Ph.D.
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, MD
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 263,622
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“Advanced imaging of acute lesion formation and repair in patients with relapse remitting multiple sclerosis” Improving MRI to allow more rapid assessment of disease progression and to improve drug discovery.

Xiaoming Zhou, Ph.D.
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Bethesda, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000

“Role of aquaporin-3 in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis” Testing a method of stopping the immune attack in MS-like disease.
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**Jane Kent, Ph.D.**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Amherst, MA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Foot Tap Speed: A Biomarker for Mobility in MS?” Evaluating the usefulness of foot tap speed as a way of predicting changes in mobility in people with MS.

**Barbara Osborne, Ph.D.**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Amherst, MA  
Award: Research Grants  
“The Role of Notch Family Members in the Development of EAE” Are “Notch proteins” a possible new therapeutic target for treating MS?

**Richard Van Emmerik, Ph.D.**  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Improving Cutaneous Sensation and Balance Control in People with Multiple Sclerosis” Exploring how sensation in feet affects balance and testing a method of improving balance.

**Alberto Ascherio, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Harvard School of Public Health  
Boston, MA  
Award: Research Grants  
“Exploring the interaction between serum 25(OH)D, vitamin D metabolism gene variants, RNA expression and MS progression” Searching for a genetic link between the positive effects of vitamin D and MS.

**Riley Bove, M.D.**  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
“Mechanisms underlying the effect of menopause on multiple sclerosis course” Researchers at Harvard Medical School in Boston are investigating the effects of menopause on the brain in women with MS.
Riley Bove, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award  
Category: Physiology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 177,960  
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“Investigation of the role of androgens in multiple sclerosis disease course”  
Do blood levels of the male sex hormone testosterone influence MS disease activity in men?

Oleg Butovsky, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 248,010  
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Mechanism of regulation of CNS inflammation by microglia”  
Exploring how one type of brain cell is both harmful and helpful in MS.

Philip De Jager, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Human Genetics  
Strategic Area: END  
Funding: $ 597,147  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Integrating risk factors and biomarkers for prediction in presymptomatic MS”  
Identifying individuals without symptoms who are at high risk for MS.

Roopali Gandhi, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 44,000  
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“To Investigate the Functional Relevance of miR-30 in Immune cells in Multiple Sclerosis”  
Understanding the function of miR-30, and the genes targeted by this novel molecule, in immune cells from people with and without MS.

Stefanie Giera, Ph.D.
Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 178,391  
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Characterization of a novel G protein-coupled receptor in oligodendrocyte development”  
Researchers at Boston Children’s Hospital are investigating the importance of a specific molecule in the ability of myelin-making cells to mature and make nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to promoting myelin repair in MS.

Bonnie Glanz, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 44,000  
“A Phase I Randomized Controlled Trial to Improve Speed of Information Processing in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis”  A trial testing a method of computerized cognitive rehabilitation in MS.

Murugaiyan Gopal, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 460,347
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Control of inflammatory and regulatory T cells in MS” Understanding the function of the immune system with the aim of reducing MS disease activity.

Samia Khoury, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 619,990
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Transcriptional Regulation of the Resistance of Memory T Cells in EAE” Can the behavior of a type of immune system cell be altered to treat MS?

Vijay Kuchroo, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 482,439
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Pathogenic and regulatory mechanisms of EAE” Controlling inappropriate immune activities in the brain for clues to stopping MS.

Charlotte Madore, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 161,218
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Targeting ApoE pathway to restore unique microglial properties in EAE.” Researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston are exploring the role of immune cells in the brain called microglia and their possible role in nervous system damage in people with MS.

Ivan Mascanfroni, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 175,804
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“Role of IL-27 signaling in dendritic cells on the development of EAE” Testing ways to control the helpful and harmful immune cells for clues to better treatments for MS.
Lior Mayo, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“Interaction between innate and adaptive immunity in CNS inflammation” How different components of the immune system work together to drive progression of MS, for clues to stopping it.

Gerd Meyer zu Horste, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 191,042
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Fas as a novel regulator of the Th17 / Treg balance in EAE.” Researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston are investigating a molecule that may control the balance between overly aggressive and suppressive immune responses for clues to stopping MS disease activity.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 632,532
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015

“Sonya Slifka Longitudinal Multiple Sclerosis Study Phase III” Analyzing and making available data from people with MS to answer a wide range questions about issues faced by people living with MS.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 634,851
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Financial implications of informal (unpaid) caregiving” The economic impacts for family members who provide care to people with MS.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Category: Health Care Delivery/Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 329,613
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2015

“The impact of out of pocket health-related costs on people with MS and their families” A detailed analyses of what people with MS spend on out-of-pocket health care costs and how this affects care and quality of life.
Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Contracts
Category: Health Care Delivery/Policy
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $622,531
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2015
“A comprehensive analysis of the direct and indirect costs of multiple sclerosis” Documenting the complete costs of MS to individuals and society, providing much-needed statistics to aid advocacy for improved health care and quality of life.

Kassandra Munger, D.Sc.
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $259,711
“Sodium intake and multiple sclerosis risk and progression” Does a high-salt diet contribute to causing MS or making it worse?

Dimitry Ofengeim, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $587,656
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2020
“RIP1 kinase as a novel target to inhibit neuroinflammatory disease” Researchers at Harvard Medical School in Boston are examining a possibly harmful molecule called RIP1 kinase and testing whether blocking its actions can protect the nervous system to stop progression in people with MS.

Dimitry Ofengeim, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016
“Targeting RIP1 kinase as a therapeutic target in MS to both reduce inflammation and attenuate oligodendrocyte degeneration.” Early testing of a strategy to reduce inflammation and protect cells that make nerve-insulating myelin as a possible new therapeutic approach to treating MS.

Kevin Patel, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $184,890
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018
“Functional connectivity changes underlying cognitive decline in early multiple sclerosis - evidence of compensatory function or sequelae of structural compromise?” Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital are using imaging to understand the relationship between cognitive problems in people with MS and differences in connections between various parts of the brain.

Funded in part by a gift from a Generous Donor
Nikolaos Patsopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 585,911
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2019

“Identification of the MS specific and the shared with other autoimmune diseases genetic component and their functional impact” What can we learn by comparing genetic risk factors between MS and other immune-mediated and autoimmune diseases?

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 766,186
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2019

“Role of astrocytes in multiple sclerosis and experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis” What role do brain cells called astrocytes play in progressive MS?

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 560,632
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Role of IL-27 signaling in dendritic cells on the development of EAE” Can immune system cells be modified to prevent myelin damage?

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,999.98
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Miglustat as a therapy for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis” This study may point to a new strategy for stopping a key contributor to MS progression. Since miglustat is already is FDA-approved for other disorders, this would expedite its application to MS if it indeed proves safe and effective. Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

David Rintell, Ed.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 42,605
Term: 6/1/2013-6/30/2015

“Parents of Children and Adolescents with MS” Understanding the effects on parents of having a child or adolescent diagnosed with MS.
Paul Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000

“Role of TRP channels in remyelination in multiple sclerosis” Investigating a protein that may put the brakes on myelin formation in MS.

Frank Schildberg, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 178,391
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Cell type-specific functions of PD-L1 in controlling EAE” Investigating immune system control mechanisms with the aim of improving knowledge of MS immune attacks and finding better therapies.

Stephanie Tankou, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 191,042
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Investigation of the role of elevated archaea species in the microbiome of patients with MS.” Researchers at The Brigham and Women's Hospital are studying the relationship between a specific type of gut microbe and immune function and disease severity in people with MS.

Funded in part by a gift from a Generous Donor

Howard Weiner, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 281,411

“Gut Microbiota in Multiple Sclerosis” Do microorganisms that live in the intestines influence disease activity in people with MS?

Howard Weiner, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Special Initiative
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 1,377,400
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2015

“Dr. John R. Richert Pilot Study on Risk Factors for MS Progression” Identifying factors that influence the course and progression of MS.

Funded by a gift from the National MS Society's Greater Delaware Valley Chapter.
Chuan Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 492,287
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2019

“How high salt diet influences the development of autoimmunity via inducible salt sensing kinase SGK1”
How might dietary salt influence the behavior of immune cells in MS?

Krystyn Van Vliet, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 562,773

“How do the mechanical properties of MS lesions influence the extent of remyelination?” Investigating how the stiffness of areas of tissue damage may impede the repair of nerve-insulating myelin repair.

Caterina Mainiero, M.D., Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Charlestown, MA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 705,149

“Cortical Inflammation and Demyelination in Multiple Sclerosis by Combined PET and MRI”
Developing better ways to visualize nervous system damage in people with secondary-progressive MS.

Daniel Kirschner, Ph.D.
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Biochem./Biophysics
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“Probing the Micro- and Nano- Structures that Stabilize the Membrane Arrays of Nerve Myelin”
Examining myelin architecture using novel technology, to address how nerve impulse conduction goes awry in MS.

Karyopharm Therapeutics, Inc.
Karyopharm Therapeutics, Inc.
Natick, MA
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 500,000
Term: 9/23/2013-11/30/2014

“In vivo efficacy of lead compounds for neuroprotection and neuroregenerative properties in MS”
Testing efficacy of SINE compounds in reducing axonal damage and promoting remyelination in MS.
**Ellen Bassuk, MA, MD**  
Center for Social Innovation, Newton, MA  
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts  
Category: Health Care Delivery/Policy  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $297,016  
Term: 7/1/2009-12/31/2015  
**“Qualitative research in care giver abuse”** Developing instruments for people with MS and their caregivers that will detect abuse by caregivers with the aim of better detecting and preventing this problem in people with MS.

**Robert McBurney, Ph.D.**  
Accelerated Cure Project for MS, Waltham, MA  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Therapy/Management of MS  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $375,000  
Term: 4/1/2015-12:00:00 AM  
**“The Optimizing Treatment - Understanding Progression (OPT-UP) Clinical Research Study”** Infrastructure support for a patient-driven registry.

**MICHIGAN**

**Tiffany Braley, M.D., M.S.**  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $827,967  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2019  
**“A randomized trial of positive airway pressure therapy to treat cognitive dysfunction in MS patients with obstructive sleep apnea”** University of Michigan researchers will determine whether a commonly used treatment for sleep apnea could improve cognitive performance in people with MS who also have sleep apnea.

**Amanda Huber, Ph.D.**  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $175,804  
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017  
**“Type-I Interferon regulation of lymphoid chemokines in MS and EAE.”** Developing an approach to predicting a person’s response to interferon beta therapy.

**Paula Dore-Duffy, Ph.D.**  
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: CNS Repair  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $44,000  
**“Human Fat Pericytes induce repair in the Cuprizone Model of chemically induced demyelination”** Determining whether a novel type of adult stem cell can promote repair in MS models.
Shailendra Giri, Ph.D.
Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 543,913
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Preclinical evaluation of combination therapy using metformin with conventional MS therapies”
Investigating, through preclinical testing, whether metformin, an oral treatment for diabetes, has potential for turning off immune attacks in MS.

Shailendra Giri, Ph.D.
Henry Ford Health Sciences Center
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 352,621
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2017

“A Metabolomics approach for identifying metabolite signature in disease progression and drug response” Researchers at the Henry Ford Health Science Center in Detroit are analyzing blood samples from people with progressive MS to develop a blood test that may be useful for predicting disease course.

Alexander Gow, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 663,959
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Neurodegeneration associated with metabolic stress in oligodendrocytes” Wayne State University researchers in Detroit are determining whether processes beyond immune attacks are responsible for nervous system damage in an MS-like disease in mice, for novel approaches to stop MS.

Alexander Gow, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 775,675

“Akt signaling in stressed oligodendrocytes” Investigating factors that lead to the destruction of myelin-making cells, for clues to inducing repair.

Leonard Lipovich, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Long non-coding RNAs in multiple sclerosis” Identifying genetic material that may be uniquely present in the blood of people with MS, and absent in unaffected relatives and healthy controls.
Robert Lisak, M.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $710,556
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

"B Cell Secretory Factors and Neuronal and Oligodendroglial Toxicity” Studying toxic substances made by immune cells that may cause nervous system damage in MS.

MINNESOTA

Wensheng Lin, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $572,022
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Endoplasmic reticulum stress in immune-mediated demyelinating diseases” Researching strategies to protect the nervous system and increase repair in MS to restore function.

Wensheng Lin, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $561,891
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Oligodendrocyte impact on neurodegeneration in the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis mouse model of multiple sclerosis” Seeking Ways to protect myelin-making cells and nerve fibers from damage in MS.

Charles Howe, Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Rochester, MN
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $42,801
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“Patient-specific neurons and axons derived from iPS cells differentiated in microfluidically isolated chambers.” Generating nerve stem cells from skin cells in the laboratory.

Isobel Scarisbrick, Ph.D.
Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, MN
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $607,111
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Targeting Protease Activated Receptor 1 to Promote Myelin Repair” Researchers at the Mayo Clinic are investigating the importance of a molecule called PAR1 in myelin protection and repair to determine if currently approved drugs that target PAR1 for treatment of other diseases could be used to treat people with MS.
Missouri

Jared Bruce, Ph.D.
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Kansas City, MO
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts
“Development of a Motivational Intervention to Improve Treatment Adherence in MS” A strategy to help people with MS re-start their MS medication if they have stopped

Marina Cella, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grants
“The role of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in T-cell mediated autoimmunity in the central nervous system” Studying the role of a type of immune cell in MS, for clues to stopping MS in its tracks.

Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D.
St. Louis University
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grants
“Hopx-dependent immunoregulation of EAE by dendritic cell-induced regulatory T cells” What role does a protein called Hopx play in determining whether the immune system will attack the brain and spinal cord in MS?

Erin Longbrake, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
“Clinical and Translational Research Training in Multiple Sclerosis” Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.
Funded by a gift from an Anonymous Donor

Robert Naismith, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grants
“QUANTITATIVE IMAGING OF TISSUE RECOVERY, REPAIR, AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS” Applying advanced imaging techniques to evaluate nerve tissue injury and repair for measure the ability of new therapies to restore function in MS.
Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 566,393
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2015
“Role of TREM-2 in multiple sclerosis and its animal model” Examining the role played by a molecule on immune cells and implications for developing a new therapy for MS. Funded by a gift from the National MS Society’s Gateway Area Chapter.

John Russell, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 657,878
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016
“Regulation of CNS lesion localization by T cell/APC interactions” What determines the location of lesions in MS?

Sheng-Kwei Song, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 578,247
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017
“Understanding the pathophysiology underlying MS progression” Improving the visualization of damage to the optic nerve in an MS model to better understand MS progression.

Yong Wang, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 201,549
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016
“Correlating MS cervical spinal cord pathologies defined by novel diffusion MRI with clinical measures” Improving imaging techniques to detect changes in the brain and spinal cord of people with MS.

Jessica Williams, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 169,946
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017
“Mechanisms of CXCL12-mediated remyelination” The role of a family of molecules called chemokines in brain repair.
Claudia Cantoni, Ph.D.  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, MO  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 172,444  
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018  
“Role of miR-223 in multiple sclerosis and its animal model”  
Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis are examining the role of a molecule that may play a role in regulating immune attacks in MS.

Anne Cross, M.D.  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, MO  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 551,169  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015  
“Gradient Echo Plural Contrast Imaging to Better Understand MS”  
Evaluating the potential of a new MRI technique as a more sensitive measure of MS disease activity.

Jie Wen, Ph.D.  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, MO  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 169,946  
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017  
“Quantification of MS tissue damage in both brain and spinal cord by using tissue-specific quantitative parameters on MRI”  
Improving MRI to better understand changes in the brain in people with MS.

NORTH CAROLINA

Wei-Chun Chou, Ph.D.  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Neuropathology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 169,946  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015  
“Role of inflammasome in neuro-inflammation disease”  
Investigating a possible trigger for immune attacks on the brain and spinal cord, for clues to stopping MS activity.

Glenn Matsushima, M.S., Ph.D.  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 587,310  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016  
“Targeting Repair of Demyelinating Lesions”  
Searching for therapies to prevent progressive disability in MS.  
2013 Stephen C. Reingold Research Award for most outstanding research proposal.
Jenny Ting, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $526,789
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015
“The roles of new innate immune mediators in neuroinflammation”  Studying new ways to prevent the immune system from attacking myelin in animal models of MS.

Jenny Ting, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $825,000
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2019
“Preclinical Therapeutic Development for Multiple Sclerosis”  Testing therapies to stop the immune attack and protect the nervous system.

Yisong Wan, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $557,255
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“Therapeutic effect of dihydro-artemisinin on MS through suppressing immune response”  Determining the potential of an ancient herbal medicine for reducing immune attacks in a model of MS, as a prelude to testing it in people with MS.

Maria Ciofani, Ph.D.
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $629,860
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018
“Network approach to dissecting genetic mediators of Multiple Sclerosis”  Duke University Medical Center researchers are using new technologies to identify genes that are expressed in certain types of cells and that may contribute to causing MS.

Dennis Ko, M.D., Ph.D.
Duke University
Durham, NC
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $43,051
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015
“A role for pathogen-induced IL10 production in susceptibility to MS”  Studying genes that instruct an anti-inflammatory protein, IL-10, in people with MS, for clues to an association with MS risk.
Chunlei Liu, Ph.D.
Duke University, Durham, NC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $425,000
“Improving the Diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis with In Vivo MR Imaging of Myelin and Iron”
Developing better brain imaging techniques to improve early diagnosis and detect progression of MS.

Nancie MacIver, M.D., Ph.D.
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $473,018
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018
“Identifying molecular mechanisms by which leptin and nutrition target T cell immunity in multiple sclerosis” Duke University Medical Center researchers are exploring whether a nutrition-regulated hormone called leptin may contribute to immune-system activity in MS.
Funded in part by a gift from a Generous Donor

Mari Shinohara, Ph.D.
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $660,554
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017
“Study on innate immune inflammation that enhances EAE” Understanding differences in response to MS treatment by looking at MS models.

NEBRASKA
Luwen Zhang, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $44,000
“Potential unique role of Epstein-Barr virus in pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis” Understanding how a virus may play a role in MS development.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Lloyd Kasper, M.D.
Trustees of Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $685,573
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2016
“Regulation of immunity by gut commensal bacteria in multiple sclerosis” Looking at whether a molecule produced by common bacteria in the intestines may hold promise for treating MS or provide clues to how MS is triggered.
Funded by a gift from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Javier Ochoa-Reparaz, Ph.D.
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Hanover, NH
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: sTOP
Funding: $ 43,054
“Study of the gut microbiome in secondary progressive Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE). Evaluation of its role during the progressive phase of the disease.”
Determining whether gut bacteria contribute to MS progression.

Heather Wishart, Ph.D.
Trustees of Dartmouth College
Lebanon, NH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 300,236
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015
“Imaging the neural basis of pain in patients with MS”
Using advanced MRI analysis to determine how the brain regions associated with pain are affected by MS.

Heather Wishart, Ph.D.
Trustees of Dartmouth College
Lebanon, NH
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,661
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015
“Random Environmental Noise Effects on Cognition in Multiple Sclerosis”
Evaluating a strategy for improving the detection of cognitive problems in people with MS.

Heather Wishart, Ph.D.
Trustees of Dartmouth College
Lebanon, NH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 411,801
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015
“Differential patterns of brain activation during pain processing in patients with MS and healthy controls”
Understanding how the brains of people with MS process pain to work toward better treatments.

NEW JERSEY
Suhayl Dhib-Jalbut, M.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12:00:00 AM-5/31/2015
“Neuroprotective Role of DJ-1 in an Animal Model of Multiple Sclerosis”
Examining a protein that may help to protect nerve cells from damage in MS models.
Steven Schutzer, M.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Newark, NJ  
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 296,487  
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2015

“The Admiral Thor Hanson Biomarkers in Multiple Sclerosis Project”  
Analyzing proteins in spinal fluid to develop a new method of diagnosing early MS.

Teresa Wood, Ph.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Newark, NJ  
Award: Daniel Haughton Senior Faculty Award  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 83,546  
Term: 11/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Activation of mTOR Signaling in Remyelination in Human MS Lesions and EAE”  
Investigating the role a group of molecules play in repairing myelin, which is attacked in MS.

Teresa Wood, Ph.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Newark, NJ  
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 706,998  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“mTOR Signaling Targets and Pathway Intersections in Oligodendrocyte Differentiation and Myelination”  
Researchers at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, are investigating the role of a molecule called mTOR and associated molecules in enhancing myelin repair.

Cheryl Dreyfus, Ph.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Piscataway, NJ  
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 607,161  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“The role of glial cell-derived factors in a cuprizone model of MS”  
Rutgers University researchers are investigating new molecules that may be capable of protecting cells that make nerve-insulating myelin, with the goal of preventing degeneration of myelin and enhancing its repair in people with MS.

Nancy Chiaravalloti, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center  
West Orange, NJ  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Rehabilitation  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: € 74,976.00  
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Treating new learning and memory deficits in Progressive MS: the modified Story Memory Technique”  
The results may have a significant impact on addressing the troubling symptom of cognitive dysfunction and improving quality of life for people with progressive MS.  
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members
Nancy Chiaravalloti, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Research Grants
“Speed of Processing Training to Improve Cognition in MS: A Randomized Clinical Trial” Can a training program to improve the speed of processing information help people with MS?

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 748,576
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2018

John DeLuca, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
“MS Collaborative Network of New Jersey” What is the connection between cognitive and motor functions in people with MS?

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 821,585
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2019

John DeLuca, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
“MS Fellowship in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation” Training postdoctoral fellows for success in careers dedicated to research in cognitive rehabilitation to improve the lives of people with MS.

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 383,965
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

John DeLuca, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Pilot Research Grant
“Testing the Effects of Methylphenidate on Cognitive Fatigue in MS: a Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized Clinical Trial” Testing whether a well-known psychostimulant can treat cognitive fatigue in MS.

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,947
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

Lauren Strober, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts
“Standardization and Normative Data of the Symbol Digit Modalities Test-Oral Version” Improving a test that measures cognitive function.

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 513,495
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017
NEW MEXICO
Oscar Bizzozero, Ph.D.
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 374,695
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016
“Impaired activity of the proteasome activator PA28 in multiple sclerosis” Is impaired removal of damaged proteins a possible contributor to the development of MS?

NEW YORK
Pierfilippo De Sanctis, Ph.D.
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,015
“Biomarkers of impaired dual-task walking abilities in multiple sclerosis: A Mobile Brain-Body Imaging (MOBI) Study” Using novel imaging to test the ability of people with MS to perform cognitive tasks while walking.

Bridget Shafit-Zagardo, Ph.D.
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 683,959
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018
“Functional Consequences of Altered AKT3 Signaling” Researchers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine are examining the role of a molecule called AKT3, which may be capable of protecting against MS immune attacks.

Charles Abrams, M.D.
The State University of New York - Downstate Medical Center
Brooklyn, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 604,387
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016
“Roles of Cx32 and Cx47 in oligodendrocytes.” Does the loss of connexins, molecules that mediate communication between brain cells, make the animal model of MS worse?

Ralph Benedict, Ph.D.
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 1,053,919
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2019
“The Role of Cognitive Dysfunction in Defining MS Relapses and Freedom from Disease Activity” Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo are investigating the importance of cognitive problems in MS relapses to more precisely define disease activity during relapses and the absence of disease activity during periods of remission.
Murali Ramanathan, Ph.D.
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 704,784
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Lipoprotein and Lipid Metabolism in Multiple Sclerosis Disease Progression” Understanding the role of cholesterol and related substances to guide diet and lifestyle choices that will improve disease outcomes in people with MS.

Janet Shucard, Ph.D.
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 6/1/2014-5/31/2015

“Does working memory training improve brain function and cognition in MS?” Testing a training program for improving cognitive function in MS.

Fraser Sim, Ph.D.
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 554,974
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“MUSCARINIC RECEPTOR REGULATION OF OLIGODENDROCYTE DIFFERENTIATION” Can an FDA-approved therapy promote the repair of nerve-insulating myelin?

M. Laura Feltri, M.D.
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 596,537
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“CHARACTERIZATION OF A NOVEL INHIBITOR OF MYELINATION: MAPK12/P38MAPKgamma.” Does a natural inhibitor of nerve-insulating myelin have potential as a target for myelin repair in MS?

Laura Balcer, M.D.
New York University
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 1,100,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2016

“Mechanisms of retinal neurodegeneration and visual pathway axonal loss in MS” Scanning the eye for clues to understanding nervous system damage and to track repair in MS.
Yoko Bekku, Ph.D.
New York University Medical Center  
New York, NY  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 175,804  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Mechanisms of node of Ranvier assembly”  Looking at how the structure of nerve fibers is affected by myelin, with the goal of finding ways to enhance nerve signaling to restore nerve function in MS.

Patrizia Casaccia, M.D., Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 548,483  
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Understanding the role of gene/environment interaction in oligodendrocytes”  Mount Sinai School of Medicine researchers are exploring how environmental factors can be harmful or protective to the cells that maintain myelin and are damaged in the course of MS.

Rebecca Farber, M.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Therapy/Management of MS  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 195,000  
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“Fellowship Corinne Goldsmith Dickinson Center for Multiple Sclerosis at Mount Sinai School of Medicine”  Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Susan Gauthier, D.O.
Weill Cornell Medical College  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 623,985  
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015

“Developing a quantitative imaging biomarker for remyelination in Multiple Sclerosis”  Investigating a method of measuring myelin repair in people with MS, which may be useful for tracking repair during clinical trials.

James Goldman, M.D., Ph.D.
Columbia University  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 482,592  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“HGF : c-met signaling in oligodendrocyte development and its inhibition by CD82”  Does a molecule called CD82 hold a key to promoting myelin repair in MS?
Yael Goverover, Ph.D.
New York University
New York, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 42,185
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015

“Exploring the effects of a memory intervention on memory and everyday life activities with persons with MS” Testing a method of improving learning and memory in people with MS.

Robert Gross, M.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 130,500
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2016

“The Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship” Training to design and conduct MS clinical trials.

Matilde Inglese, M.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 664,214
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“Multimodal longitudinal imaging in progressive MS” Using advanced imaging to track and understand nervous system changes that lead to progression in people with primary-progressive MS.

Matilde Inglese, M.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 406,674
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015

“A 7 Tesla MRI post-mortem study of gray matter lesions in MS” Using high-powered brain imaging technology as a window to understanding damage caused by MS.

Gareth John, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 103,125
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Kruppel-like factor-6 signaling in myelin formation and repair.” Exploring the importance of a protein called Klf6 in the repair of nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

Allan Kozlowski, B.S, P.T., Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,997
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Feasibility of ReWalk exoskeleton&#8211;assisted walking for persons with multiple sclerosis” Testing an exoskeleton walking program in people with MS who have moderate to high disability.
Juan Lafaille, Ph.D.
New York University Medical Center  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $676,900  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“The role of the innate immune system in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis”  
Do specific immune cells hold the key to stopping MS?

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.
Columbia University  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $558,130  
Term: 8/1/2014-3/31/2018

“Resting State Functional Connectivity as a Predictor of Memory Decline in Multiple Sclerosis”  
Looking for a way to predict who will experience memory decline due to MS so that treatments to slow or prevent it can be started early.

Claire Riley, M.D.
Columbia University  
New York, NY  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Neurophysiology  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $44,000  
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“Reserve against physical disability in Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis”  
Examining whether larger maximal lifetime brain growth is related to disability in people with primary-progressive MS.

Jack Rosenbluth, M.D.
New York University Medical Center  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: Restore  
Funding: $103,125  
Term: 4/1/2011-9/30/2015

“Role of the paranodal junction in myelinated nerve fibers.”  
Looking at how alterations in myelin structure affect the behavior of nerve fibers.

James Salzer, M.D., Ph.D.
New York University School of Medicine  
New York, NY  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $465,741  
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Assembly of CNS Nodes of Ranvier”  
Determining how the specialized nerve fiber regions that carry nerve signals develop, with the goal of preserving or restoring proper nerve signaling and function in MS.
James Salzer, M.D., Ph.D.
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 499,501
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Mobilizing adult neural stem cells for remyelination”  Searching for ways to increase the production of brain cells that can repair myelin damaged by MS.

Wendy Vargas, M.D.
Columbia University
New York, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000

“Educational Outcomes of Cognitive Dysfunction in Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis”  Studying academic performance in children with MS for clues to early intervention to address cognitive problems.

Timothy Vartanian, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 495,000
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Modeling Nascent Lesion Formation in Multiple Sclerosis”  Does a toxin derived from bacteria play a role in early MS damage?

Timothy Vartanian, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 345,001

“Identification of an environmental trigger for MS”  Is a toxin produced by bacteria a trigger for MS?

Lin Wu, Ph.D.
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 169,946
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“Characterization of protein dynamics and function in Th17 cell differentiation”  Investigating how immune cells control disease for clues to developing new therapies for MS.
Junqian Xu, Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 74,840.70
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“Longitudinal Multicenter Cervical Spinal Tract Diffusion MRI for Progressive MS”
Developing methods for tracking nervous system damage that occurs during MS progression is crucial for clinical trials that set out to determine the effectiveness of strategies at stopping or reversing this progression.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Yulin Ge, M.D.
New York University Medical Center
New York City, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 470,246
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Brain Oxygen Metabolism and Vascular Reactivity in MS: Assessing Neurodegeneration using MRI”
Using recently developed MRI techniques to investigate possible causes of nervous system damage in MS.

Matthew Bellizzi, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 263,622
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Synaptic injury and neuroprotection in multiple sclerosis”
Identifying processes that contribute to the loss of nerve function in MS, and seeking ways to protect the nervous system from damage.

Steven Goldman, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 592,585
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015

“Molecular determinants of human glial progenitor cell-based remyelination”
Studying human myelin repair cells in action for clues to stimulating nervous system repair in MS.
Funded in part by a gift from MS Hope for a Cure

Andrew Smith, M.D.
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 195,000
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Experimental Therapeutics Fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis”
A promising doctor at the University of Rochester will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.
Holly Colognato, Ph.D.
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Does exercise promote myelin repair?” Examining how exercise influences myelin repair in MS models.

Lauren Krupp, M.D.
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 628,313

“Plasticity-based, adaptive, computerized cognitive remediation treatment (PACR) for adults with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)” Evaluating a web-based program to help improve memory and learning in people with MS.

JAVIER PALAZUELOS, Ph.D.
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 169,946
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“The role of TGF-beta signaling in oligodendrocyte development, myelination and remyelination” Exploring how a signaling molecule may influence repair of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to restoring function in people with MS.

OHIO
Qing Lu, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 379,984
Term: 10/1/2013-6/30/2015

“microRNA Control of Myelination and Remyelination in the Central Nervous System” Investigating ways to encourage brain cells to mature and initiate the repair of nerve-insulating myelin to restore function in people with MS.

Qing Lu, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 750,052
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Histone deacetylase control of CNS myelination and remyelination” Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center researchers are focusing on how an enzyme controls myelin growth and repair, with a future possibility of stimulating this enzyme to repair myelin in people with MS.
Lai Man Wu, Ph.D.
Children’s Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 163,103
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Functional study of transcriptional regulator Sip1 in CNS myelination and remyelination”
Exploring the role of a protein for clues to stimulating myelin repair to restore function in MS.

Robin Avila, Ph.D.
Renovo Neural, Inc.
Cleveland, OH
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: € 75,000.00
Term: 8/1/2014-7/31/2015

“New mouse model of repeated demyelination that results in a progressive neurological decline”
Developing a model for testing whether therapies can stop MS progression is a critical step in bringing these strategies from the laboratory to the clinic where they can end progression in people with MS.
Funded jointly with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Jeffrey Cohen, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 41,859
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Labeling of MSCs for in vivo cell tracking of IV infused MSCs in MS”
Determining the best way to track mesenchymal stem cells in the body during clinical trials of this novel strategy for treating MS.

Ranjan Dutta, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 304,111
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Identification of critical regulators of remyelination in MS brains”
Looking for ways to stimulate brain cells that have potential to repair nerve-insulating myelin that has been damaged by MS.

Ranjan Dutta, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 464,151
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Pathogenesis of cortical demyelination underlying progressive disability in multiple sclerosis”
Researchers at the Cleveland Clinic are examining the brains of people with MS to understand differences between the damage caused by primary-progressive and secondary-progressive MS in search of ways to stop progression.
Robert Fox, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Strategic Initiative
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 592,151
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2018

“Ibudilast Clinical Trial” Clinical trial to test whether ibudilast, a re-purposed therapy, can protect the nervous system and slow or stop progressive MS.

Funded by a gift from the National MS Society Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Sharyl Fyffe-Maricich, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 412,500
Term: 1/1/2013-12/31/2015

“ERK MAP kinase regulation of oligodendrocyte differentiation and remyelination in the CNS” Investigating how protein signals influence the repair of nerve-insulating myelin in the brain and spinal cord.

Bruce Lamb, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 156,744
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2015

“Monocytes and microglia in EAE” Differentiating the role of specific brain cells that contribute to both nervous system damage and repair, for clues to stopping MS and restoring function.

Xiaoxia Li, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 636,194
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Cellular and molecular mechanisms of the inflammasome in CNS inflammation” Identifying potential targets for turning off immune attacks in MS.

Matthew Plow, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 507,560
Term: 2/1/2014-9/30/2015

“Evaluating the effects of physical activity and fatigue management strategies” Developing methods for teleconferencing based support to help people with MS manage fatigue and improve physical activity.

Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region
Ian Rossman, M.D., Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 195,000
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship-Training a Pediatric Neurologist to be a Clinical and Translational Trialist for Pediatric and Adult Multiple Sclerosis” Training to design and conduct MS clinical trials.

Andrew Smith, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 195,000
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018

“Training in multiple sclerosis diagnosis, management, and clinical trials” A promising doctor at the Cleveland Clinic will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Stephen Stohlman, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 573,177
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“IFN-g dependent astrocyte regulation of CNS autoimmunity” The role of cells known as astrocytes in regulating immune activity and potential for nervous system repair in chronic progressive MS.

Anette van Boxel-Dezaire, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 440,000
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016

“The gut-brain axis and blood-brain barrier damage in patients with multiple sclerosis” Exploring how the brain and gut barriers are disrupted in MS.

Yanming Wang, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 641,605
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“Myelin Imaging in Multiple Sclerosis” Developing a technique to measure the success of treatments to restore myelin.
Athersys, Inc.
Athersys, Inc. Category: CNS Repair
Cleveland, OH Strategic Area: RESTORE
Award: Commercial/Drug Development - General Funding: $ 721,600
Fund Term: 10/1/2011-11/30/2014

“Investigation on the Safety and Utility of Human MultiStem® in Mouse Models of Multiple”
Developing a stem cell therapy for the treatment of MS.

Carrie Hersh, D.O.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Cleveland, OH Strategic Area: STOP
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships Funding: $ 195,000
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“Training in multiple sclerosis diagnosis, management, and clinical trials” Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Mark Lowe, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Cleveland, OH Strategic Area: STOP
Award: Research Grants Funding: $ 658,575
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2017

“MRI-DTI and Functional Connectivity as Measures of Disease Progression in MS” Using powerful brain MRI to develop a better way to track MS disease progression.

Deborah Miller, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Cleveland, OH Strategic Area: RESTORE
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts Funding: $ 519,120
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“INFORMS:Improving Neuro-QOL’s Functionality for Outcomes Research in Multiple Sclerosis” Developing a way to assess MS symptoms with a standardized patient-reported questionnaire.

Lynne Gauthier, Ph.D.
Ohio State University Category: Rehabilitation
Columbus, OH Strategic Area: RESTORE
Award: Pilot Research Grant Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“Video game based treatment for the upper extremity in progressive multiple sclerosis” Conducting a clinical trial to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of a video game-based treatment for arm weakness in people with progressive MS.
Amy Lovett-Racke, Ph.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 584,726
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2017

“Role of miRNA in defective Tregs in Multiple Sclerosis” Exploring ways to alter the immune responses to stop MS in its tracks.

Ruchika Prakash, Ph.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 4/1/2014-12/31/2015

“Mindfulness–Based Stress Reduction and Emotion Regulation in Multiple Sclerosis” Testing meditation for improving emotional function in people with MS.

Michael Racke, M.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 355,028
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“Interferon-beta modulation of microRNA in Multiple Sclerosis” Investigating whether interferons alter activity of small segments of RNA, in search of new ways to stop the immune-system attacks and nervous system damage in MS.

Karin Coifman, Ph.D.
Kent State University
Kent, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,520
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2015

“Emotion Processing during Multiple Sclerosis: Cognitive and Behavioral Indicators of Psychological Risk (PILOT)” Studying how individuals with MS process emotional experiences for clues to improving depression.

Daniela Popescu, Ph.D.
Kent State University
Kent, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000
Term: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

“The role of vitamin K in remyelination” Investigating the effect of vitamin K on myelin repair and neuroprotection in an experimental model of MS.
Phillip Rumrill, C.R.C., Ph.D.
Kent State University
Kent, OH
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Contracts
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 522,775
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2015
“An Examination of the Impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act on the Employment Concerns and Outcomes of Americans with Multiple Sclerosis” How has the Americans with Disabilities Act impacted the quality of work life in people with MS over the last 10 years?

OKLAHOMA
Michael Basso, Ph.D.
University of Tulsa
Tulsa, OK
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 39,873
Term: 2/1/2012-9/30/2016
“A manualized cognitive rehabilitation program for Multiple Sclerosis” Developing a standardized program to improve memory in people with MS.

OREGON
Geetanjali Dutta, P.T., Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Beaverton, OR
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 163,103
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017
“Effect of balance training on postural responses in people with multiple sclerosis” What type of balance training can improve stability in people with MS?

Fay Horak, P.T., Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Beaverton, OR
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 432,457
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2019
“Rehabilitation Research Training in Postural Control of Multiple Sclerosis” Rehabilitation researchers at Oregon Health & Science University have received five years of funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals in how to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

Larry Sherman, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Beaverton, OR
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 483,523
“Novel hyaluronidase inhibitors for the promotion of remyelination” Investigating a new avenue with potential to promote repair of myelin in MS.
### Scott Wong, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University  
Beaverton, OR  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
**Category:** Infectious Agents  
**Strategic Area:** END  
**Funding:** $44,000  
**Term:** 12/1/2014-11/30/2015  

**“Isolation of a novel gamma-herpesvirus from multiple sclerosis patients”**  
Investigating whether people with MS are infected with a novel human herpesvirus that has yet to be identified.

### Dennis Bourdette, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR  
Award: Research Grants  
**Category:** Immunology  
**Strategic Area:** RESTORE  
**Funding:** $440,000  
**Term:** 4/1/2015-3/31/2017  

**“Promoting remyelination in animal models of multiple sclerosis with a selective thyromimetic drug”**  
Researchers at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland are testing a drug called sobetirome that may promote myelin repair in animal models of myelin loss.

### Dennis Bourdette, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR  
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards  
**Category:** Therapy/Management of MS  
**Strategic Area:** RESTORE  
**Funding:** $825,000  
**Term:** 4/1/2015-3/31/2020  

**“Developing patient-centered and evidence-based wellness programs for people with MS”**  
Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are collaborating to develop patient-centered and evidenced-based wellness programs to improve the daily life of people with MS.

### Meredith Frederick, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
**Category:** Therapy/Management of MS  
**Strategic Area:** STOP  
**Funding:** $195,000  
**Term:** 7/1/2015-6/30/2018  

**“Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Research Fellowship”**  
A promising doctor at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

### Meredith Hartley, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
**Category:** Neuropharmacology  
**Strategic Area:** RESTORE  
**Funding:** $178,391  
**Term:** 7/1/2015-6/30/2018  

**“A thyroid hormone-based strategy for promoting remyelination”**  
Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are testing thyroid hormone-like drugs to see if they will improve myelin repair and to determine their potential for development as a treatment for MS.
Lynne Shinto, N.D., M.P.H.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 44,000
“Lipoic Acid and Omega-3 Fatty Acids for Cognitive Impairment in Multiple Sclerosis” A clinical trial testing the benefits of combining lipoic acid and fatty acid for treating cognitive impairment in 53 people with MS.

Arthur Vandenbark, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 656,966
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016
“A Novel MIF Inhibitor as Therapy for MS” Pre-clinical testing of a possible new strategy to block entry of harmful immune cells into the brain in MS.

Vijayshree Yadav, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR
Award: Research Grants
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Funding: $ 491,950
“Lipoic acid as a treatment for acute optic neuritis: a pilot trial” A clinical trial to determine whether an oral antioxidant can prevent nerve damage in people with optic neuritis, often the first symptom of MS.

Elizabeth Blankenhorn, Ph.D.
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $ 514,789
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015
“Refining the genetic basis of EAE in B6 mice to establish a model for MS-GWAS testing” Studies to clarify how specific MS susceptibility genes and gender influence MS.

Justine Brink, D.O.
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: FP 17113-A-1
Strategic Area: Dr. Thomas Leist
Funding: $ 195,000
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018
“A promising doctor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.”

PENNSYLVANIA

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship Grant Proposal” STOP
Judith Grinspan, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 540,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

“A role for BMP in oxidative stress during demyelination” Investigating whether specific proteins that are released during nervous system damage may play a role in limiting natural myelin repair during the course of MS.

Yang Hu, M.D., Ph.D.
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 165,000

“Targeting Neuronal ER Stress for Neuroprotection in EAE” Researchers at Temple University in Philadelphia are investigating a way to protect nerve cells from stress in an animal model of visual problems sometimes seen in MS.

Funded by a gift from a Generous Donor

A.M. Rostami, M.D., Ph.D.
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 619,270
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“IL-9 in the pathogenesis of CNS autoimmune inflammation” Will targeting a specific immune molecule be a promising path for stopping MS immune attacks?

Maria Schultheis, Ph.D.
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 40,154
Term: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

“Sleep and Cognition in Relapse-Remitting MS: Directions for Rehabilitation” Determining the degree to which cognitive function differs between good and poor sleepers in MS.

Maria Schultheis, Ph.D.
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 572,652
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Multitasking and MS: A cognitively-based approach to vocational rehabilitation” Drexel University researchers are studying multitasking in people with MS to find solutions for cognitive problems that affect employment.
Quasar Padiath, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $362,380
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017

“The role of the nuclear lamina in myelin regulation and demyelination” Exploring the possible role of a protein that may control genes involved in the repair of nerve-insulating myelin.

Jonathan Cook, M.S., Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $42,529
Term: 8/1/2013-7/31/2015

“Social Psychological Factors Affecting the Progression of MS” Examining whether concealment of MS influences health-promoting behaviors and disease progression.

RHODE ISLAND
Albert Lo, M.D., Ph.D.
Saint Francis Care Mandell MS Center
Providence, RI
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $518,180
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016

“Characterizing Upper Extremity Function in Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis” Understanding upper extremity dysfunction in people with MS.

TENNESSEE
Hongbo Chi, Ph.D.
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, TN
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $660,000
Term: 11/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Innate immune signaling in TH17 differentiation and function and autoimmune neuroinflammation” Uncovering messenger molecules that alter the behavior of immune system cells with the aim of stopping damage to the nervous system in MS.

Luc Van Kaer, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $665,000
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2018

“Promoting regulatory interactions between iNKT cells, MDSCs and Tregs as a therapeutic approach for MS” Researchers at Vanderbilt University in Nashville are seeking ways to regulate the immune system to retain its helpful functions and turn off its harmful functions to develop a novel way of treating MS with fewer side effects.
**TEXAS**

**Jianrong Li, Ph.D.**  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $402,478  
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2015  

“Role of astroglial galectin-9 in CNS demyelination and remyelination”  
Investigating a molecule that may contribute to myelin damage, for clues to repair strategies in MS.

**E. Sally Ward, PhD**  
Texas A&M (Transfer Pending)  
College Station, TX  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $483,717  

“Antigen targeting and tolerance in murine EAE”  
Looking at ways to stop the immune system attack against myelin in MS-like disease.

**Craig Crandall, Ph.D.**  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, TX  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
Category: Physiology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $43,966  
Term: 6/1/2014-5/31/2015  

“Heat exposure and posture stability in MS patients.”  
Determining the effects of heat exposure on balance in people with MS.

**Scott Davis, Ph.D.**  
Southern Methodist University  
Dallas, TX  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Physiology  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $235,973  

“Dynamic blood pressure control and orthostatic tolerance in individuals with MS at rest and during heat stress.”  
Studying how MS affects the regulation of blood pressure in response to exercise for clues to potential strategies to improve function.

**John Hart, M.D.**  
University of Texas at Dallas  
Dallas, TX  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Neurophysiology  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $692,330  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017  

“Identifying and Characterizing Auditory Processing Disruptions in Multiple Sclerosis”  
Developing a better way to track the problem of understanding spoken language in people with MS.
Nancy Monson, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grants
“Antibody gene signature in transverse myelitis”  Looking for patterns of immune gene activity as a way to tell whether an initial attack of transverse myelitis will become MS, which could lead to faster diagnosis and treatment.

Nancy Monson, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grants
“DYSREGULATION OF B CELLS IN MS”  What alters the behavior of immune cells early in MS and how can they be stopped?
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Bart Rypma, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grants
“Hemodynamic response function changes In Multiple Sclerosis”  Developing ways to measure changes in blood flow in the brain due to MS lesions.

Feng Yang, Ph.D.
The University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, TX
Award: Pilot Research Grant
“Effects of controlled whole-body vibration training on reducing falls among individuals with multiple sclerosis”  A trial to test whether whole-body vibration training can prevent falls in people with MS.

Shuo-Hsiu Chang, P.T., Ph.D.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX
Award: Pilot Research Grant
“Wearable lower extremity exoskeleton to promote walking in persons with multiple sclerosis”  Studying the effectiveness of a wearable exoskeleton to improve walking in people with MS.
Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 504,636
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“The role of NFIA in developmental and regenerative oligodendrocyte differentiation”
Looking for a way to enhance the development of cells that could repair damaged myelin in MS.
Funded in part by a gift from the Wintermann Foundation

Leorah Freeman, M.D.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 195,633
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2017
“Cerebral white matter hypoperfusion and its relationship to lesion formation and repair in MS: a longitudinal multimodal MRI study.”
Imaging blood flow in MS lesions in the brain to understand damage to nerve fibers

Hyun Kyoung Lee, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 583,911
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2019
“The Role of Daam2 in Oligodendrocyte Development and Multiple Sclerosis”
Focusing on molecules that control the maturation process of cells that can repair lost myelin in MS.

Ponnada Narayana, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 43,989
Term: 6/1/2014-5/31/2015
“Effect of repeated Gd administration: Controlled studies in rodents”
Assessing a safety concern associated with repeated contrast injections for MRI scans.

Matthew Rasband, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 659,781
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015
“Spectrins as regulators of CNS myelination and axon integrity”
Examining a molecule that may need to be protected from damage in MS.
**Thomas Forsthuber, M.D., Ph.D.**  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
San Antonio, TX  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 591,566  
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2017  

“M2 proteomics of the EAE model of multiple sclerosis” Working on a blood test that may ultimately be used to monitor disease progression in people with MS.

**UTAH**

**Theron Casper, Ph.D.**  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
Strategic Area: END  
Funding: $ 2,879,087  
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016  

“Pediatric MS Network Continuation” Strategic support for a one-of-a-kind research network of centers studying pediatric MS.

**Laura Dickey, Ph.D.**  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Therapy/Management of MS  
Strategic Area: RESTORE  
Funding: $ 166,724  
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2018  

“Human neural precursor cell-mediated remyelination in a viral model of MS” Researchers at the University of Utah are testing the idea that molecules secreted by stem cells improve potential for repairing nerve-insulating myelin.  
*The McCarthey Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow*

**Eun-Kee Jeong, Ph.D.**  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
Strategic Area: STOP  
Funding: $ 455,492  
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016  

“Quantitation of axonal damage by diffusion and Bound-Pool-Fraction MRI” Exploring a new type of imaging to visualize nervous system damage in people with MS.

**John Kriesel, M.D.**  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Infectious Agents  
Strategic Area: END  
Funding: $633,361  
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016  

“Deep Sequencing for the Detection of Microbes in the Brains of Patients with Acute Demyelinating Disease” Searching for hints of a possible virus in the brain that may trigger MS.
VIRGINIA

Babette Fuss, Ph.D.  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, VA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“ATX signaling and microglia function during remyelination”  
Testing a molecule that may help brain cells to promote myelin repair and neuroprotection.

VERMONT

Gary Mawe, Ph.D.  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, VT  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Mechanisms of gastrointestinal dysfunction in multiple sclerosis”  
Exploring the mechanism for gastrointestinal problems in people with MS.

Andrew Solomon, M.D.  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, VT  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Misdiagnosis in MS: A Multicenter Database Pilot Study”  
Gathering data on misdiagnosis of MS for clues to improving diagnosis and treatment.

Cory Teuscher, Ph.D.  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, VT  
Award: Research Grants  
“Identification of gene-by-environment interactions contributing to CNS autoimmune disease”  
University of Vermont researchers are using mice with MS-like disease to look at interactions between genes and the environmental factors Vitamin D and exposure to UV/sunlight for clues to preventing or treating MS.

WASHINGTON

Joseph Harding, Ph.D.  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA  
Award: Pilot Research Grant  
“Evaluation of a small molecule hepatocyte growth factor mimetic for the treatment of multiple sclerosis”  
Testing a neuroprotective compound in a mouse model of MS.  
*Funded by a gift from the National MS Society Greater Northwest Chapter*
Kevin Alschuler, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 794,769
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2018

“Life after MS diagnosis: a biopsychosocial assessment of symptom trajectory” How does quality of life change for individuals over the first year after diagnosis with MS?

Estelle Bettelli, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 590,517
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

“Identification of pathogenic T cells in EAE” Exploring aspects of how immune cells are controlled by natalizumab for clues to improving therapies for MS.

Charles Bombardier, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 1,466,730
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2018

“The effect of aerobic exercise on cognition in multiple sclerosis” Can aerobic exercise improve cognitive impairment in people with MS?

Dawn Ehde, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Pilot Research Grant
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 43,996
Term: 6/1/2013-5/31/2015

“The Efficacy and Mechanisms of Cognitive Therapy Compared to Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy in MS Pain” Investigating a method of reducing pain in people with MS.

George Georges, MD
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 416,188
Term: 1/1/2012-3/31/2016

“Allogeneic HSCT in MS patients: international registry” Establishing a system of tracking the status of people’s MS after they undergo bone marrow transplants to treat other conditions.

Simon Glatigny, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, WA
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 115,142
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

“Control of regulatory T cell functions by integrin alpha 4” Understanding how immune cells move into the brain in people with MS, to improve therapies aimed at stopping MS attacks.
Joan Goverman, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 595,993
“Defining mechanisms by which CD8+ and CD4+ T cells coordinately mediate CNS autoimmune disease” Studying an MS model to see how the cells that cause the disease interact, for clues to new avenues for stopping MS in its tracks.

Mark Jensen, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 180,866
Term: 10/1/2014-9/30/2016
“Enhancing the Benefits of Pain and Fatigue Treatment in MS” Researchers at the University of Washington are investigating ways to reduce pain and fatigue in people with MS using mindfulness meditation and biofeedback to improve self-hypnosis.

Mohamed Oukka, Ph.D.
Seattle Children's Hospital
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 613,744
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2016
“Role of scaffolding proteins in the generation of Th17 cells and in the pathogenesis of EAE.” Investigating selective blocking of the entry of only harmful immune cells into the brain as a possible new treatment for MS.

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $ 382,459
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2018
“The Seattle collaborative post-doctoral fellowship in MS rehabilitation research” A training program to provide fellows research skills that will enable them to conduct studies aimed at improving quality of life for people with MS.

Vasily Yarnykh, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $ 334,479
“Quantitative imaging of white and gray matter demyelination in multiple sclerosis using macromolecular proton fraction mapping” Investigating a new MRI technique to quantify and predict disease activity and damage in the nervous system in people with progressive or relapsing MS.
**WISCONSIN**

**Shing-yan Chiu, Ph.D.**
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI
Award: Research Grants

“A Novel Specific Treatment for Progressive MS: Elimination of Mitochondrial Anchoring”
Researchers at the University of Wisconsin in Madison are studying mouse models with features similar to progressive MS to investigate possible new approaches to stopping MS progression.

**Aaron Field, M.D., Ph.D.**
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI
Award: Special Initiative

“Study of CCSVI in MS using quantitative time-resolved 3D MRV” Understanding the role of CCSVI (vein blockage) in MS and identifying optimal methods for screening for the condition.

**Colleen Hayes, Ph.D.**
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI
Award: Research Grants

“Vitamin D and estrogen synergy in the control of EAE” Exploring how vitamin D and the sex hormone estrogen may interact to control MS-like immune attacks and its implications for MS.

**Bonnie Dittel, Ph.D.**
BloodCenter of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI
Award: Research Grants

“Regulation of EAE by CD86 expressed within the CNS” Investigating how an immune-system signaling molecule suppresses MS-like disease for clues to new treatments to stop MS disease activity.

**Hao Zhang, Ph.D.**
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI
Award: Research Grants

“Therapeutic implications of KYC, a novel myeloperoxidase inhibitor, in multiple sclerosis” Can blocking free radicals in an MS model provide clues to stopping disease progression in people with MS?
“Acute phase antiviral response as exacerbation trigger” Testing whether inflammation induced by viruses during the initial stages of infection triggers exacerbations in a mouse model of MS.