Now is the time to accelerate breakthroughs that change the world for people with MS — life-changing breakthroughs that enable people to live their best lives today and research breakthroughs that will ultimately end MS.
Thank you for joining us for the 2016 Society Leadership Conference. This is a valuable opportunity for outstanding leaders in the MS movement to join together to inspire, learn, support, network and re-energize to change the world for people with MS.

This year’s conference theme is Breakthrough MS. People affected by MS are relying on us to do whatever it takes to accelerate breakthroughs — life-changing breakthroughs that enable people to live their best lives today and research breakthroughs that will ultimately end MS forever.

Through inspiring general sessions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities, you’ll be able to connect with others and come away with the tools you need to accelerate these breakthroughs throughout the coming year. During the conference we will celebrate our progress and ensure understanding of the Society’s highest impact priorities going forward.

All attendees will receive post-conference materials to educate and inspire you, your friends, family and colleagues. And you can use #BreakthroughMS on social media to share your experiences and follow conference happenings. See page 2 for details.

Every single breakthrough matters for those with MS. Whether you are a volunteer, event participant, board member or donor, this year’s conference will be a relevant and impactful experience that will enhance your leadership throughout the year. We look forward to learning, sharing and celebrating with you during this special time.

Together we will Breakthrough MS.

Very truly yours,

Cyndi Zagieboylo, President & CEO National MS Society

Peter Galligan, Chair, National Board of Directors National MS Society
GET CONNECTED
ONLINE & MOBILE

GET SOCIAL
Share what you learn at the conference on social media. Use the hashtag #BreakthroughMS on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to share your experiences and follow conference happenings.

GET UPDATES
Text MSleadership to 68686 to receive 2016 Society Leadership Conference updates via text message (message and data rates may apply).

GET THE APP
Download the mobile application for iPhone and Android to manage your schedule, keep track of your workshops, view floor maps of the hotel, and more.

ntl.ms/msleadershipapp — text APP to 68686 to receive a text message with the link.

*After you connect to the Society Conference network, you will need to launch a browser (e.g. Safari, Chrome). You’ll then be automatically redirected to a page where you can enter the password.
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<td>Schedule of Events</td>
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DENVER CITY GUIDE

A guide to making the most of your stay in Denver, featuring tips and favorites from Denver-based staff!

LOCAL ADVICE

• **Drink a lot of water!** It’s a great way to fight altitude sickness. And watch your alcohol intake — it affects you faster than you’re used to up here.

• **Be sure to apply sunscreen**, even when it is cloudy. **The sun is strong at 5280 feet.** And, dress in layers, as the temperature can change significantly throughout the day.

• Not sure which direction you’re headed? **The mountains are always to the West.**

• The **16th Street Mall Ride** is a free (wheelchair accessible) bus service along the 16th Street Mall. Even if you aren’t headed somewhere right on the mall, it’s a great way to get from the hotel to sights and restaurants in the area. All city buses (RTD) are equipped with wheelchair lifts or ramps.

• Have an outfit malfunction or clothing dilemma? Check out the **Denver Pavilions** on the 16th Street Mall.

• Try to watch a **sunset from a rooftop patio.** They’re all over Denver, and watching the sun dip behind the mountains is something that “flatlanders” should really do!

• The overhead lights at **Larimer Square** make for a great photo opp!

• Parking meters in the city of Denver are **free for up to 4 hours with a valid disability parking placard or plate.**

TIP

Use the **Yelp app** to find restaurants near you and read reviews from past diners. (Search “Yelp” in your app store.)

ACCESSIBLE DINING

**5280 Burger Bar** (American) $$ / 0.2 miles
Laid-back restaurant on the 16th Street Mall with all natural Colorado Beef burgers, homemade buns, and churned ice cream from scratch.
500 16th St.
303-825-1020
5280burgerbar.com

**City O’ City**† (Vegetarian) $$ / 0.5 miles
All vegetarian fare; great vegan and gluten-free options.
206 E 13th Ave.
303-831-6443
cityocitydenver.com

**Guard and Grace*** (Steakhouse) $$$ / 0.5 miles
Beautiful, modern restaurant with delicious food.
1801 California St.
303-293-8500
guardandgrace.com

**The Kitchen Denver*** (American) $$$ / 0.9 miles
Clean and bright community bistro located in Denver’s Lower Downtown Historic District. Food and drinks sourced from sustainable farmers, ranchers and purveyors.
1530 16th St.
303-623-3127
thekitchen.com
Linger* (American) $$ / 1.7 miles
A renovated mortuary with great small plates, Indian/Asian/American comfort food; amazing rooftop with city views.
2030 W 30th Ave.
303-993-3120
lingerdenver.com

Osteria Marco** (Italian) $$ / 0.7 miles
Delicious house-made burrata cheese, great drinks and fun atmosphere.
1453 Larimer St.
303-534-5855
osteriamarco.com

Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant‡ (Mexican) $$ / 0.8 miles
Mighty (AKA strong) margs and Mexican fare; loud and energetic atmosphere.
1525 Blake St.
303-623-5432
riograndemexican.com

Rioja* (Spanish) $$$ / 0.7 miles
Menu inspired by Mediterranean ingredients and influenced by local and seasonal products.
1431 Larimer St.
303-820-2282
riojadenver.com

Steuben’s (American) $$ / 0.5 miles
Popular local spot with fun cocktails and comfort food with a twist. They also do curbside to-go!
523 E 17th Ave.
303-830-1001
steubens.com

Yard House (American) $$ / 0.1 miles
Known for its 130 taps of imported, craft and specialty ales and lagers. Good option if you’re in the mood for a burger and beer near the hotel.
1555 Court Pl.
303-572-9273
yardhouse.com

*Reservations suggested
+Limited accessibility in restrooms
+See host stand for access to accessible entrance

If you’re taking RTD’s Light Rail to and/or from the airport, there are several good lunch spots in and around Union Station. Our favorites include Mercantile, Zoe Ma Ma, Blue Sushi, Hopdoddy and Mangiamo Pronto.
THURSDAY, NOV 10

PRE-CONFERENCE
7 am – 9 am
National Board of Directors Investment Committee (invitation only)
Room: Governor’s Square 14

9:15 am – 11:15 am
National Board of Directors Governance Committee (invitation only)
Room: Governor’s Square 14

11:30 am – 1:30 pm
National Board of Directors Chapter Relations Committee & Lunch (invitation only)
Room: Governor’s Square 14

1:45 pm – 3:45 pm
National Board of Directors Finance Committee (invitation only)
Room: Governor’s Square 14

1:45 pm – 3:45 pm
New Chapter Chairs Orientation (invitation only)
Room: Governor’s Square 15

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE START
12 pm – 4 pm
Registration/Information Desk Open
Room: Foyer

4 pm – 5 pm
Opening General Session
Room: Plaza Ballroom A, B, C

5 pm – 6 pm
Registration/Information Desk Open
Room: Foyer

5 pm – 6 pm
Welcome Reception
Room: Plaza Foyer

FRIDAY, NOV 11

8 am – 4 pm
Registration/Information Desk Open
Room: Foyer

8 am – 9 am
Breakfast Buffet
Room: Plaza Foyer
9 am – 10:30 am  
**WORKSHOP:**  
Breakthrough MS (all attendees)  
Room: Plaza Ballroom A, B, C

9 am – 11:30 am  
National Board of Directors Meeting  
*(invitation only)*  
Room: Grand Ballroom 2, Tower Building

10:30 am – 12 pm  
**Sponsor Showcase**  
Room: Plaza Foyer

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm  
**General Session & Lunch**  
Room: Plaza Ballroom A, B, C

2 pm – 4 pm  
**WORKSHOPS:**  
Getting More of What You Need to Live Your Best Life  
Room: Plaza Ballroom D  
Expanding Teams and Team Committees to Raise More Money  
Room: Plaza Ballroom E  
Research Progress Depends on Your Voice  
Room: Plaza Ballroom F

2 pm – 5:30 pm  
Delegate Assembly Meeting  
*(invitation only)*  
Room: Grand Ballroom 1 & 2, Tower Building

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
**Cocktail Reception**  
Room: Plaza Foyer

6:30 pm - 8 pm  
**Evening General Session, Dinner & Awards Ceremony**  
Room: Plaza Ballroom A, B, C

**SATURDAY, NOV 12**

**PLEASE CHECK OUT OF YOUR HOTEL ROOM AND STORE YOUR LUGGAGE IN THE DESIGNATED AREA (PLAZA COURT 2 & 3) PRIOR TO THE SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS.**

7:30 am – 8:30 am  
Breakfast Buffet  
Room: Plaza Foyer

8 am – 10:15 am  
National Board of Directors New Member Orientation & Breakfast  
*(invitation only)*  
Room: Governor’s Square 17

8:30 am – 10 am  
**WORKSHOPS:**  
Research Progress Depends on Your Voice  
Room: Plaza Ballroom D  
Make MS Medications More Affordable and Accessible  
Room: Plaza Ballroom E  
Strategies to Recruit and Engage Powerful Community Engagement Committees  
Room: Plaza Ballroom F

10:30 am – 11:30 am  
**Closing General Session**  
Room: Plaza Ballroom A, B, C
### THURSDAY, NOV 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 am – 8 am</td>
<td>7 am – 9 am National Board of Directors Investment Committee (Governor’s Square 14)</td>
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<td>8 am – 9 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 am – 10 am</td>
<td>9:15 am – 11:15 am National Board of Directors Governance Committee (Governor’s Square 14)</td>
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<td>10 am – 11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am – 12 pm</td>
<td>11:30 am – 1:30 pm National Board of Directors Chapter Relations Committee &amp; Lunch (Governor’s Square 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 pm – 1 pm</td>
<td>12 pm – 4 pm Registration/Information Desk Open (Foyer)</td>
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<td>1 pm – 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pm – 3 pm</td>
<td>1:45 pm – 3:45 pm National Board of Directors Finance Committee (Governor’s Square 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pm – 4 pm</td>
<td>1:45 pm – 3:45 pm New Chapter Chairs Orientation (Governor’s Square 15)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 pm – 5 pm</td>
<td>4 pm – 5 pm Opening General Session (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td>5 pm – 6 pm Welcome Reception (Plaza Foyer)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 pm – 6 pm Registration/Information Desk Open (Foyer)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Legend:**
- General Sessions
- Key Activities
- Workshops
- Other Conference Activities
- Invitation Only
## FRIDAY, NOV 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 am – 8 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 am - 9 am</td>
<td>8 am - 9 am Breakfast Buffet (Plaza Foyer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 am – 10 am</td>
<td>9 am – 10:30 am All-Attendee Workshop Breakthrough MS (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am – 11 am</td>
<td>10:30 am – 12 pm Sponsor Showcase (Plaza Foyer)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12:15 pm – 1:30 pm General Session &amp; Lunch (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)</td>
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<td>1 pm – 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pm – 3 pm</td>
<td>2 pm – 4 pm Workshops (see page 11 for details)</td>
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<td>3 pm – 4 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 pm – 7 pm</td>
<td>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Cocktail Reception (Plaza Foyer)</td>
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<td>6:30 pm – 8 pm Evening General Session, Dinner &amp; Awards Ceremony (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### General Sessions
- 8 am – 9 am Breakfast Buffet (Plaza Foyer)
- 9 am – 10 am All-Attendee Workshop Breakthrough MS (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)
- 10:30 am – 12 pm Sponsor Showcase (Plaza Foyer)
- 8 am – 4 pm Registration/Information Desk Open (Foyer)
- 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm General Session & Lunch (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Cocktail Reception (Plaza Foyer)
- 6:30 pm – 8 pm Evening General Session, Dinner & Awards Ceremony (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)

### Key Activities
- 9 am – 10:30 am All-Attendee Workshop Breakthrough MS (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)
- 9 am -11:30 pm National Board of Directors Meeting (Grand Ballroom 2, Tower Building)
- 2 pm - 5:30 pm Delegate Assembly Meeting (Grand Ballroom 1 & 2, Tower Building)

### Workshops
- 2 pm – 4 pm Workshops (see page 11 for details)

### Other Conference Activities
- 8 am – 9 am Breakfast Buffet (Plaza Foyer)
- 9 am – 10 am All-Attendee Workshop Breakthrough MS (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)
- 10:30 am – 12 pm Sponsor Showcase (Plaza Foyer)
- 8 am – 4 pm Registration/Information Desk Open (Foyer)
- 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm General Session & Lunch (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)
- 1 pm – 3 pm General Session & Lunch (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)
- 2 pm – 4 pm Workshops (see page 11 for details)
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Cocktail Reception (Plaza Foyer)
- 6:30 pm – 8 pm Evening General Session, Dinner & Awards Ceremony (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)

### Invitation Only
- 9 am -11:30 pm National Board of Directors Meeting (Grand Ballroom 2, Tower Building)
- 2 pm - 5:30 pm Delegate Assembly Meeting (Grand Ballroom 1 & 2, Tower Building)

#BREAKTHROUGHMS
## SATURDAY, NOV 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 am – 8 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 am – 9 am</td>
<td>8:30 am – 10 am Workshops (see page 11 for details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 am – 10:15 am</td>
<td>National Board of Directors New Member Orientation &amp; Breakfast (Governor’s Square 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 am – 10 am</td>
<td>Luggage Storage (Plaza Court 2 &amp; 3) *** Please check out of your hotel room &amp; store your luggage in designated storage area prior to the Saturday morning workshops ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am – 11 am</td>
<td>10:30 am – 11:30 am Closing General Session (Plaza Ballroom A, B, C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **General Sessions**
- **Key Activities**
- **Workshops**
- **Other Conference Activities**
- **Invitation Only**
GROWING REVENUE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Breakthrough MS
Friday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Now is the time to do whatever it takes to accelerate breakthroughs that change the world for people with MS – life-changing breakthroughs that enable people to live their best lives today, and research breakthroughs that will ultimately end MS forever. This workshop-style session for all conference attendees will equip us as fundraising leaders with the information, training and tools that will inspire increased giving to fuel this ground-breaking campaign.

Expanding Teams and Team Committees to Raise More Money
Friday, 2 pm – 4 pm

Team captains are leaders in mobilizing people and resources to achieve impact. Join fellow captains and top fundraisers from around the country to share ideas and achieve even greater impact by building capacity within your team. You will leave this workshop with strategies and tools for setting powerful and achievable recruitment and fundraising goals, and learn new ways to engage corporate support to achieve breakthrough results.

ACCESSING WHAT YOU NEED TO LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE

Getting More of What You Need to Live Your Best Life
Friday, 2 pm – 4 pm

Learn what the Society offers to help you live your best life! Discover the resources available to connect to others with MS, your community, and the Society programs that equip you with the information and resources you need. Learn how the Society can be a supportive partner throughout your MS journey including website resources, self-directed tools and a personal advocate program. You will leave this workshop with an increased understanding and access to what you need to live your best life with MS.

Make MS Medications More Affordable and Accessible
Saturday, 8:30 am – 10 am

With the Society’s launch of this exciting and powerful initiative, each person affected by MS has a crucial role. This workshop will ensure that those in the MS movement understand this initiative and how they can engage to create progress toward increased affordability and access to life-changing treatments.
VOLUNTEER POWER

Research Progress
Depends on Your Voice

Friday, 2 pm – 4 pm
Saturday, 8:30 am – 10 am

Understand the intersections between research, fundraising and advocacy and how we leverage the connections between them to accelerate progress and outcomes to change the world for people with MS. Discuss strategies around voicing what people with MS need to drive research, propel fundraising and move advocacy. Leverage the many ways to be an activist, fundraiser and research enthusiast.

Strategies to Recruit and Engage Powerful Community Engagement Committees

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10 am

Expanding our reach, raising awareness and increasing revenue through community engagement will elevate the Society’s efforts to new heights. During this workshop, you will learn about proven steps you can take to launch your community engagement committee and community councils. Share your ideas with other volunteer leaders and take home your own resource guide to get started in your community and expand our reach exponentially.

Every single breakthrough matters for those with MS.

What does it take to change a life? We’re not satisfied until we can answer this question for every person affected by MS.
HOTEL FLOORPLANS

2ND LEVEL — I.M. PEI TOWER BUILDING

1 Grand Ballroom
2 Windows
3 Tower Court
4 Tower Court Foyer
5 North Convention Lobby
6 South Convention Lobby
7 Grand Ballroom Foyer
CONCOURSE LEVEL —
PLAZA BUILDING

1 Plaza Ballroom
2 Plaza Courts
3 Governor’s Square
4 Plaza Exhibit / Foyer
Bill Gautreaux

William (Bill) Gautreaux began his involvement with the Society in 2003 when he started a Bike MS® team. Since that first ride, he has grown his team, inspiring countless individuals and companies to participate. His leadership with the Society continued when he became a trustee in Mid America. Bill has served for nearly a decade in a variety of volunteer leadership capacities with the Society, including as chapter board treasurer and chair. Bill co-founded two energy companies, including Inergy LP, which merged with Crestwood LP, of which Bill is the Chief Marketing Officer and President of Supply and Logistics. Bill and his wife Christy are passionate advocates for social services, education and the arts, and are philanthropic leaders in the Kansas City community.
The Scherwinski Family

When it comes to raising funds and awareness for MS, the Scherwinski family of Wisconsin is “all in.” Their collective Walk MS® and Bike MS® team fundraising now tops $2 million, while family patriarch Chuck expects to hit the $1 million mark himself in 2017.

In addition to Chuck, who was diagnosed with MS in 1996, the family includes his wife Anne; their son Andy and his wife Lindsey and their infant daughter Isabelle; and their daughter Britney and her husband Kyle Frye.

The year after Chuck’s diagnosis, he and Andy started participating in Bike MS. Three years later they formed their own team, and soon Britney — and now Kyle — joined in, while Anne and Lindsey run one of the event’s most popular rest stops. In prior years the family also led a Walk MS committee for their local community.

While the family has received numerous Society accolades, they never miss an opportunity to motivate and engage others, including sharing their story with constituents and donors.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
HONOREES

Beth Jensen
Beth Jensen came to the Society more than 30 years ago as one of the first volunteers in the Upper Midwest tele-peer connection program. Since then, she has become an invaluable member of the MS support group community in the Twin Cities. Beth is a dedicated, caring and talented support-group leader who has involved and collaborated with group members to provide educational programs. As an area coordinator, she has elevated support, training and networking opportunities for group leaders, who have in turn become a strong and reliable source of support for one another. In addition to her work with MS support groups, Beth leverages her relationships within the MS community to recruit countless volunteers to area fundraising events.

Robert L. Sowinski
Robert “Bob” Sowinski joined the Society’s Wisconsin Board of Trustees in 1989 and served as its chair in 1993. Bob joined the National Board in 2003, and chaired the 2011–2015 Strategic Response Steering Committee and 2006 Nominating Committee; he currently chairs the Governance Committee and serves on the Chapter Relations, Risk Management and Executive Committees. In his professional life, Bob is vice-chair of Diversified Insurance Solutions, having over 35 years’ business experience ranging from pharmacy to home health and retail vision care to business insurance and employee benefits. He has led his Diversified team at Walk MS for more than 20 years. Bob is a graduate of Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy. He splits his time between Wisconsin and Florida. He and his wife of 42 years, Mary, have two children and five grandchildren. Bob still plays the guitar in the garage band he helped form in high school.

Life-changing breakthroughs translate research breakthroughs into action by removing barriers in the way of access to healthcare and optimal wellness, and provide what is needed to navigate the challenges of living with MS each day.
VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME

ADVOCACY HONOREE

Rick Rovak
Since 2011, Rick Rovak has been a member of the Missouri Government Relations Advisory Committee and a dedicated MS activist. He helps engage other MS activists, attends State Action Days and Public Policy Conferences, and provides training for other activists before their meetings with legislators. In 2016, when Rick became Chair of the Government Relations Advisory Committee, his talents and passion flourished. Rick testified in legislative committees, attended a meeting of the Missouri MS Task Force, represented the Society at a health advocacy conference and heightened MS awareness in the capital of Missouri, Jefferson City. During the 2016 legislative session, three Society-supported bills passed the Missouri legislature. Rick is also a top fundraiser for Bike MS® in the Gateway area.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL HONOREE

Mark B. Skeen, MD
Dr. Mark Skeen is Medical Director of the MS Center and Division Chief of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology at Duke University. He has supported the Society since 2007 when he joined the Greater Carolinas Healthcare Advisory Committee. Dr. Skeen has volunteered numerous hours to serve on committees, and speak about the disease to providers and to people living with MS. He has a particular interest in educating students about MS, and has been involved in initiatives to train physical therapy, medical and physician assistant students. Dr. Skeen co-chairs the Society’s local Workforce Development work team focused on fostering student interest in a career in MS care.

Research breakthroughs continue to fuel the treatments and solutions that will stop the disease in its tracks, restore what has been lost, and end MS forever.
Ana Franco

In support of her daughter Julia (now 25) whose journey with MS began when she was 12 years old, Ana Franco has been a dedicated and passionate volunteer for the Society in New York City–Southern New York for more than a decade. Ana’s commitment to supporting others has found her lending her time and talents to events such as Bike MS® and Walk MS®, Climb to the Top, Race Against MS, Day for Hispanic Families Living with MS, MS Run the US, the chapter’s inaugural Conference for African Americans Affected by MS and many more. A sales executive at a fashion wholesale company, Ana has used her professional skill set to raise awareness about MS and the mission of the Society.

Jeffrey A. Cohen, MD

Dr. Jeffrey Cohen serves as the Director for the Mellen Center for MS Treatment and Research, Neurological Institute at the Cleveland Clinic. In that capacity, he has developed a large clinical practice devoted to people with MS. He has been involved in many MS-related research efforts and has taken a leadership role in a number of trials for new MS therapies, including his latest work on mesenchymal stem cell transplantation to treat MS. Dr. Cohen has served on the Ohio Buckeye Healthcare Advisory Committee since 1994 and the Board of Trustees since 1997. His career has been dedicated to improving clinical practices and advancing research studies to improve the quality of life for people with MS.
CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

Members of the National MS Society’s Circle of Influence demonstrate their commitment to a world free of MS through financial leadership, extraordinary generosity and enduring trust. Each individual, corporation, foundation or team has given or raised $10 million or more to impact the lives of people living with MS.

2016 HONOREE

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

For more than 20 years, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Hilton family have been critical partners of the National MS Society in addressing the needs of people with progressive MS, and in driving MS research forward. The late Marilyn Hilton, mother of former Foundation Chairman, President & CEO, Steven M. Hilton, lived with multiple sclerosis most of her adult life. During Steve’s tenure as Chairman, the Foundation made a tremendous impact in both MS research — focused on funding promising young scientists, research into biomarkers and infrastructure, and translational research aimed at finding treatments and a cure for progressive MS — and services — including programs at the Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center, wellness programming, and programs and fellowships to encourage doctors to join the field of MS.

2014–2015 HONOREES

Bayer, Biogen, bp, EMD Serono, TEVA Neuroscience, Sam’s Club
CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION

Members of the National MS Society’s Circle of Distinction demonstrate their commitment to the Society’s mission through extraordinary financial leadership and generosity. Each individual, corporation, foundation or team has given or raised $1 million or more to bring us closer to a world free of MS.

2016 HONOREES

CORPORATIONS
Albert’s Diamond Jewelers, Inc.
Boeing
Chevron Corporation
Medtronic
Monsanto Corporation
Noble Drilling Services, Inc.
Pentair
PGA Tour
Praxair
South Cook MS Self Help Group
Starbucks

INDIVIDUALS & FOUNDATIONS
Edward M. Dowd
ITW Foundation
The Unruh Family

TEAMS
Carneymen
Chains for the Better
CSX
Mayo Clinic
Ridgewood Cycle
Team Erica
Team Gillispie
Team GLP
Team Taco Deli
Wheeler Dealers
Urban Bicycle Gallery

2004–2015 HONOREES

CORPORATIONS
Deloitte
EMD Serono
Enterprise
Ernst & Young
Express Scripts
Falcon Jet
FedEx
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Whether it’s a solution for everyone affected by MS or personal breakthroughs for each individual, we will do whatever it takes to change the world for people with MS.
CHAIRMAN’S CIRCLE

Members of the Society’s Chairman’s Circle demonstrate their commitment to the Society’s mission through their exemplary financial leadership and generosity. Each individual, corporation, foundation and team has given or raised $500,000 or more to bring us closer to a world free of MS. Thank you to this group for their impactful leadership.

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Toyota
Transocean, Inc.
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Wells Fargo
SPECIAL GUESTS
Cyndi Zagieboylo became President & CEO of the National MS Society in October, 2011. She began her Society career in 1985 and has had many responsibilities and positions in the Society. Cyndi has worked with every CEO of the organization, including the Society founder, Sylvia Lawry, and has made achieving the Society mission her life’s work.

Cyndi serves on the Society’s National Board of Directors as CEO & President, on the National Health Council CEO Group and Board of Directors, and on the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation CEO Advisory Group and Board of Directors. She is a founding member of the International Progressive MS Alliance which was launched in 2013, and provides leadership as chair of the executive committee. The Alliance was formed to expedite the development of therapies for progressive MS through connecting resources and experts around the world. Cyndi’s priorities include: Maximize global participation in and contributions to research priorities including the Progressive MS Alliance; identify and effectively resource strategies that ensure people affected by MS live their best lives today; and, align the Society to most effectively deliver the Society mission and ultimately achieve a world free of MS.

Born in Norfolk, Massachusetts, Cyndi received her bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation counseling and psychology from Springfield College, followed by a master’s degree in social psychology from the University of Connecticut.
Peter Galligan became a member of the Society’s National Board of Directors in 2003. Now, as chair of the Board, he serves ex officio on all board committees, and chairs the Executive and Compensation Committees. Peter also holds several volunteer leadership positions in the Boston area including the Boston College Leadership Council, Brae Burn CC Board, Treasury Management Association, and the St. Sebastian’s Alumni Board.

He chaired the Society’s FY2016–2018 Strategic Plan Development Advisory Committee, the Chapter Board Governance Task Force in 2004, the Blue Ribbon Panel, and the 2003 Task Force on Chapter Board Membership Criteria. Peter also served on the Charting Our Future Task Force in 2008 and the Chair’s Advisory Council 2000–2002. He served as Greater New England Board assistant treasurer, treasurer, and chair from 1999–2000, after being elected to the chapter’s board in 1987. In his professional career, Peter was Executive Vice President of RBS/Citizens, and currently serves as an independent banking consultant.

Peter received his bachelor’s degree in finance from Boston College, and attended the Wharton Business School Executive Leadership Program. Peter, his wife Meg and their daughter Cori reside in Needham, Massachusetts.
Denise Belle is a volunteer leader passionate about connecting people — particularly vulnerable populations — to the resources provided by the Society. As a public health expert, Denise has made equality in healthcare an important focus, and she has used her professional expertise to help the Society address healthcare disparities. She currently serves as a trustee with the Greater Carolinas Chapter, and has served on several Society Advisory Councils and subcommittees addressing issues surrounding rural health.

Denise is presently pursuing her PhD in public health from Walden University; she earned her bachelor’s degree in community health education, and her master’s degree in public health. She is director of Community-Based Outreach Programs with Rural Health Group, Inc. where she taps into and serves the needs of rural communities in northeastern North Carolina.

Denise credits her persistence to her beautiful mother whom she cites as her hero. She is grateful for the paths she has traveled, is committed to the work of the Society, and is excited about a world free of MS.

As a child, Chris Nettleton loved sports and aspired to be a comedian. Born and raised in Minnesota, he especially loved hockey. He dreamed of making people laugh while sharing his love of sports. These passions coalesced when he finished his bachelor’s degree and began his career in broadcast journalism — enjoying 15 years working in broadcast news and more than a decade as a local TV sports anchor.

In 2008, Chris went through a month of unexplained numbness and dozens of tests, and was finally diagnosed with MS. Chris and his wife Megan — newlyweds at the time — moved to Idaho where Chris became his new station’s MS ambassador and official emcee for the local Walk MS® event. Megan began work at the Society. Chris emceed Walk MS and Megan ran it — a match made in heaven!

Chris and Megan's adorable son Quinlan, or “Q” as they call him, was born in 2010, and the family is now enjoying living back in Minnesota. Because MS is an unpredictable disease, Chris put away his microphone in 2014 and went back to school for his master’s degree in journalism and mass communications. He is currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Minnesota, with plans of becoming a professor.

Chris and Megan truly believe that a cure for MS is within their lifetime, which drives them to play an important role in the MS movement.
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