



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
National Capital
Chapter

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

CONTACT: Diane Metzger
(202) 296-5363
PR@MSandYOU.org

Fairfax Health Professional Inducted into National MS Society Volunteer Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Fairfax, Va., health professional Carol Saunders was inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Volunteer Hall of Fame at the Society's National Conference, held in Chicago November 5-7. Saunders is the Director of Patient Care at the Neurology Center of Fairfax.

Saunders has been involved with the National MS Society, National Capital Chapter for 15 years. She has served on chapter committees, helped shape client programs, facilitated MS support groups, and led a Walk MS team.

"Carol Saunders dedicates herself both professionally and personally to serving people affected by MS," said J. Christopher Broullire, President of the National Capital Chapter. "Her work has impacted the many thousands of people living with MS in our community, and we congratulate her on being recognized at a national level."

As a member of the National Capital Chapter's Chapter Programs Committee since 1993, Saunders has worked to design and develop programs to help local individuals affected by MS cope with the everyday demands of the disease. In 2001, she also joined the Clinical Advisory Committee, through which she works to educate health professionals about MS in order to promote professional development and improve patient care.

"It is a real privilege to work with the outstanding staff of the National Capital Chapter and all at the National MS Society," Saunders says. "They provide so much help and support to our MS population."

Saunders participates in the National Capital Chapter's Walk MS event and motivates others to join her. She been a fundraising participant since 1996, and in 1998 she formed a team. Under her leadership, the team grew to include 82 of her support group members, patients, and colleagues.

"Carol Saunders has a deep appreciation for the funds needed to fulfill the National MS Society's goal of ending MS, and she leads by example," Broullire said.

Saunders served on the National MS Society's MS Medicare Coverage Coalition in 2004 and 2005. In 1998, she received the National Capital Chapter's Services Award to acknowledge her extensive work with Chapter programs.

In addition to her extensive long-term involvement with the National MS Society, Saunders also serves others through her professional work and her participation in other MS organizations. Through her work at the Neurology Center of Fairfax, she has led support groups for 20 years, including her current group comprised of approximately 50 individuals. Saunders is also an active member of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, the American Nurses' Association, and the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. She has also served as a Board Member for the International Organization of MS Nurses.

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S., and 2.5 million worldwide.

Studies show that early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can reduce future disease activity and improve quality of life for many people with multiple sclerosis. Talk to your health care professional and contact the National MS Society at www.MSandYOU.org or (202) 296-5363 to learn about ways to help manage multiple sclerosis and about current research that may one day reveal a cure.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. Locally, the National Capital Chapter provides a wide range of vital services in the areas of counseling, education, employment, information and referral, public policy development and advocacy, and financial assistance to the many thousands of people with MS and their families who live in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For more information about MS or the National Capital Chapter, please call (202) 296-5363 or visit www.MSandYOU.org.

###