National Multiple Sclerosis Society

CONNECTION

MOVING TOWARD A WORLD FREE OF MS

Volume 4 • Issue 2 Upstate New York Chapter

The Chapter Remains Steadfast in the Face of Economic Challenge

By Randal A. Simonetti, President & CEO

Even when economic conditions get tough, the Upstate New York Chapter continues its mission as it has for the past 53 years. Meeting the needs of more than 12,000 individuals and their families living in Upstate New York remains the number one priority of the Upstate New York Chapter. As you are all aware, the current economic crisis has put tremendous pressure on donors, fundraisers, foundations and corporate sponsors. The Upstate New York economy is certainly not immune to these challenges and in many respects, due to our state's high taxation rates, is experiencing even greater financial contraction.

These conditions have forced us to re-evaluate the way we create and deliver programs to the 12,000 families we serve. It is also appropriate to continually assess what clients need so we can bring a more meaningful and effective program and service portfolio to the markets we serve. That assessment has just been completed and will serve, along with other research, to help us align our resources in a more effective manner.

Despite these challenges, the chapter continues to invest close to $800,000 to support research and the National organization's infrastructure. We will provide close to $100,000 for assistive and adaptive technologies so clients can remain safely in their homes or continue to remain active in the workforce. We will invest over $500,000 in an array of client, family and clinical training seminars, workshops and symposiums so individuals can make informed decisions about their care and treatment. In addition, we will spend over $50,000 in physical, vocational and recreational therapy while continuing to enhance our care-management process to reach all those who need that level of consultative care.

Finally, the chapter will continue to invest over $50,000 in the communication infrastructure required to ensure that all of our constituents understand our mission, participate in programs and support our state-wide fundraising events. Despite the financial challenges we are all facing in 2009, the Chapter will remain steadfast in it's commitment to serve our clients. Tough times will never change our focus on doing something about MS now. I encourage your help and support.

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Rochester, NY 14620-3901

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Buffalo, NY 14225

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www.msupstateny.org
www.nationalmssociety.org

All offices can be reached by calling 1.800.FIGHT MS (1.800.344.4867)

Adult Day Health Program

Multiple Sclerosis Achievement Center (MSAC)
2300 Buffalo Rd., Bldg. 600 B
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 585.368.6470

Clinics/Health Centers

MS Clinic (Albany)
Center For Disability Services
314 South Manning Blvd. Albany, NY 12208-1794
Phone: 518.453.2273

MS Care Center (Albany)
Albany Medical Center
Department of Neurology
47 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
Phone: 518.262.5226

Baird MS Center (Buffalo)
The Jacobs Neurological Institute
University at Buffalo
Buffalo General Hospital
100 High Street E2 Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: 716.859.7521

Pediatric MS Center (Buffalo)
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University at Buffalo
Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo
219 Bryant Street Buffalo, NY 14222
Phone: 716.878.7367

Empire Neurology P.C. (Latham)
Riverhill Center-Suite 105
1205 Troy Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110
Phone: 518.785.1000

Hudson Valley Neurology, PC (Poughkeepsie)
110 Main Street, Suite 2E
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Rochester MS Center [RMSC] (Rochester)
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601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 605
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UHCC - Neurology, 4th Floor
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A Salute to our Circle of Hope Members

Congratulations to a very special group of elite philanthropists who have committed to helping 12,000 clients and their families living with multiple sclerosis in Upstate New York by becoming members of the **Circle of Hope** during the period from October 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009. We thank you for your commitment and generosity.

Acorda Therapeutics, Inc.
Mr. Robert August
Birk Family Foundation
Miss Ann Boshart
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clark
Ferguson Electric Foundation
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Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gallina
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For more information regarding the Circle of Hope, please contact Jeanne Marino at jmarino@msupstateny.org or 1.800.FIGHT MS.

PLEASE NOTE

In an effort to continue to provide high quality programs and services in our present economic climate, we are posting the following articles, which would normally be printed in the MS Connection, on the chapter's website. Please go to msupstateny.org, select About this Chapter from the left navigation, click on Newsletters, and then on Summer 2009 Addendum.

- **Newly Diagnosed? Take Steps**
- **Read all About it in Society Brochures**
- **World MS Day**
  - **$19 Million for MS Research**
  - **May 27, World MS Day: A Call to Action**
  - **Momentum is Online**
  - **Phil Rides for MS**
- **Nervous System Protection and Repair Conference**
- **Are you Getting Enough Vitamin D? Does it Matter?**
- **MS Learn Online Teaches Job Strategies**
- **Honor Someone Special or Celebrate a Special Event**

If you are unable to access the above information, please contact our office at 1-800-FIGHT MS and we will send a copy to you.

Save the Date - Buffalo Dinner of Champions

Date: October 13, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Location: Hyatt Regency Buffalo
Two Fountain Plaza
Buffalo, New York 14202

Honoring:

Dr. Peter R. Kinkel	Stephen H. Kelly Award
Diane Hanny	Anne L. Shuell Inspiration Award
Gretchen Geitter & The Buffalo Bills	MS Community Partner Award
Larry Montani	MS Community Champion Award

For further information please contact:
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4245 Union Rd., Suite 108
Buffalo, NY 14225
716.634.2573 ext.18

To keep you informed and to keep our records current, please forward your current email address to office@msupstateny.org

Thanks to the Johnson Foundation for their Continued Commitment to Walk MS

Once again the chapter celebrates the generosity of the Johnson Foundation and their $5,000 contribution in support of Doug Brown's Walk MS Team, Team DJ. The Johnson Foundation annually supports the efforts of this Jamestown based team. Support is restricted to research, education, advocacy and local programs that enhance the quality of life for people with multiple sclerosis in Western New York.

Upcoming Third Party Events

- July 25 - 1st Annual Jean Kovarcik Golf Tournament will be held at Pheasant Hills Country Club in Owego, NY. For more information call 607-727-3566.
- August 9 - Forte Leather will be having a motorcycle rally in Spencerport, NY. For details call Michelle at 585-349-7117
- September 16 - HMS Host has a golf tournament scheduled at Green Lakes State Park. Look for collection canisters will be at all the HMS Host travel plazas on the turnpike through the beginning of September.
- Todd Walbridge will be selling t-shirts designed by artists with MS, with proceeds donated to the Upstate New York Chapter...information available at www.mstshirts.com.
  For more information or to post your upcoming event in a future issue, please contact Pam Monk at (607) 723-9498, monknmss@stny.rr.com.

Recent Third Party Events

	County	Amount
Scrap MS Scrap-a-Thon	Broome County	$3,122
Seneca Chiropractic and Family Wellness Fundraiser	Onondaga County	$2,900
Farm Family Insurance Company Fundraiser	Albany County	$1,420
Saratoga Central Catholic School Dress Down Day	Saratoga County	$ 535
RMSCO Office Jeans Day	Onondaga County	$ 241
Saratoga Central Catholic School Dress Down Day	Saratoga County	$ 535
Corvette Club of Western New York Fundraiser	Erie County	$ 139
Siena College "Pie Your RA" Fundraiser	Albany County	$ 100

To order this CD please visit www.msupstateny.org and click on **"Local events to benefit the MS Society."** The order form is available for download on this page.

Music for MS- Mario Commisso will donate 25% of the sales from "Swept Away" his new CD, through this special offer to the Upstate New York Chapter of the National MS Society. (May 25 - August 25)

"Swept Away" features a new song inspired by a life touched by MS. "As I reflect on the past 10 years, the experience of seeing someone close to me deal with multiple sclerosis has given me a new appreciation for living life. This comes from the extraordinary courage, positive attitude and determination of my wife Maria who was diagnosed 12 years ago. She has inspired me to compose the song "You Believe In Me" with the lyrics written by Dan Redican, (English) and Gaetano Lo Monoco, (Italian)." —Mario Commisso

Women's Retreat Weekend

Twenty five women from Buffalo, Rochester, Binghamton, Syracuse, and Albany participated in the recent Women's Retreat Weekend at Beaver Hollow located in Java Center near Darien Lake. The weekend included presentations and discussions on a variety of topics including emotional health, relationships, intimacy, symptom management and wellness offered through educational seminars, and planned activities with plenty of time allotted for relaxation and pampering! Presentations were given by Nancy Cooper, PhD, and Eileen Shied, RN, and Cynthia Irish, RN both from the MS Center at Strong Memorial Hospital.

The United Way Day of Caring Kodak Team spent the day doing home maintenance chores for the winner of the 2009 Spring Sweepstakes winner, Katheigh Thomas (center).

After a great season of bowling at Clover Lanes in Rochester, the league celebrated with a banquet for bowlers and volunteers.

Congratulations to Dr. Katie Noyes!

The Upstate New York Chapter congratulates Katia Noyes, Ph.D. of the University of Rochester's School of Medicine for the three year research grant awarded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in support of research entitled Evaluating Nursing Home and Other Long-term Care in Multiple Sclerosis (ENHOLMS).

Congratulations to Dr. Keith Edwards!

The International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium (IMSGC) has been funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to establish a new resource of DNA (genetic material) samples for multiple sclerosis (MS) research. This new collection will bring together DNA samples for 10,000 patients with MS that will enable further work in the field of MS at the cutting edge of human genetics. Dr. Keith Edwards at the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Northeastern New York in Latham, NY is heading one of over twenty new DNA collection centers. Questions relating to the study can be directed to Dr. Edwards and his MS specialty staff at 518.785.1000. He will be recruiting patients that have a diagnosis of MS into this exciting new study.

National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
Upstate New York Chapter

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
1650 South Avenue, Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14620-3901

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND HANDICAPPED

A United Way Agency

2009 Event Schedule

July 11, 2009	Bike MS: Follow the Foothills (Saratoga)
September 26, 2009	Bike MS: Pedal to the Park (Rochester/Buffalo)
October 13, 2009	MS Dinner of Champions (Buffalo)
October 20, 2009	Upstate New York Chapter Annual Meeting (Albany)
November 6, 2009	Women Against MS Luncheon (Albany)
November 14, 2009	MS Magic Ball (Rochester)

Would you prefer to receive your MSConnection in your inbox rather than your mailbox? Sign up today for an e-Newsletter by e-mailing chapter@msupstateny.org, and your name will be added to our cyber list. Thanks for helping us save printing, postage and trees!

The 2008 chapter's annual report is now available by logging on to www.msupstateny.org in the "About This Chapter" section. If you would like a copy, please call 1.800.FIGHT MS and select option #2.