

**Dr. Timothy Coetzee Named Chief Research Officer  
By the National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

***Society Moves Forward with Its Comprehensive Research Strategy  
to Stop MS, Restore Function and End MS Forever***

December 16, 2010..The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is pleased to announce that Dr. Timothy Coetzee has been named as the organization's Chief Research Officer, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Dr. Coetzee has been a leader in the pursuit of innovative ways to move us closer to a world free of multiple sclerosis since receiving his PhD in microbiology and immunology in 1993. He has contributed to the field of MS research in numerous ways, including everything from his postdoctoral work researching the structure and function of myelin, to ultimately helping to create programs such as the Society's Translational Research Partnerships in Nervous System Repair and Protection in MS. His extraordinary experience in multiple areas have demonstrated proven ability to create critical partnerships and effective collaborations worldwide to move research and treatment forward faster for people affected by all forms of MS.

"Dr. Coetzee's experience across all disciplines in MS, from basic research to speeding the development of new therapies for people with MS, makes him the right person at the right time to support our mission of creating a world free of MS," says Joyce Nelson, president and CEO, National MS Society.

"It's an honor to be chosen to lead the Society's research efforts at this exciting time as we move ever closer to ending MS forever," advises Dr. Coetzee, Chief Research Officer. "To speed that goal, I look forward to engaging the best scientific minds, to pursuing the most innovative research and business approaches, and to spurring world-wide collaborative efforts."

Under Dr. Coetzee's leadership, the National MS Society created its Career Transition Fellowship, the first transition award for postdoctoral fellows to be established by a patient advocacy organization, and the MS Clinician Scientist Development Award, a joint venture award between the National MS Society and the American Academy of Neurology to recruit young physician-scientists to MS clinical research.

Dr. Coetzee was also a leader in establishing the Translational Research Partnerships in Nervous System Repair and Protection in MS Program, a five-year, \$15 million commitment to fund four large collaborative research teams focused on developing tools and strategies to promote nervous system repair and protection in MS. This program became the cornerstone of the Society's \$32 million Promise: 2010 campaign and Dr. Coetzee was a major force in raising funds for the accomplishment of those efforts.

Dr. Coetzee received his PhD in microbiology and immunology from Albany Medical College in Albany, NY in 1993. He began his lifelong commitment to ending MS when he received the National MS Society's Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowship to support his research on the structure and function of myelin. Dr. Coetzee joined the National MS Society's Research Department in 2000 as the Director of Research Training Programs. Subsequently, he held various positions, including Director of Research Initiatives and Outreach, Associate Vice President of Research Initiatives and Outreach, and Vice President of Discovery Partnerships where he assumed responsibility for the development, launch and leadership of Fast Forward in 2006, a Society initiative that continues to break down barriers that impede commercial development, clinical trials, and ultimate patient availability of new treatments for all forms of MS.

“Dr. Coetzee's experience and expertise in both academic and commercial research will ensure the Society can aggressively pursue all promising paths for treating MS and deliver results to people affected by this terrible disease.” said Dr. Aaron Miller, Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Coetzee will assume responsibility of the Society's research program, which funds more than 375 projects around the world. In this role, he will continue oversight of the Fast Forward initiative.