

# Fast Forward<sup>SM</sup>

## General Fund

This project is funded by Fast Forward, LLC, a nonprofit organization established by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in order to accelerate the development of treatments for MS. Fast Forward will accomplish its mission by connecting university-based MS research with private-sector drug development and by funding small biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies to develop innovative new MS therapies and repurpose FDA-approved drugs as new treatments for MS.

<p><i>Co-Primary Investigators</i></p> <p>Robert W. Mays, PhD Head of Neuroscience, Senior Director of Regenerative Medicine Athersys, Inc. Cleveland, OH</p> <p>and</p> <p>Robert H. Miller, PhD Vice President for Research Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Cleveland, OH</p>	<p><i>Project Title</i></p> <p>MultiStem® Allogeneic Stem Cell Product for Treatment of MS</p>	<p><i>Amount to be Committed</i></p> <p>\$640,000 Term – 12 to 18 months</p>
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## About the Company

Athersys is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery and development of therapeutic product candidates. The Company is developing MultiStem®, a patented, adult-derived stem cell product platform. Athersys has advanced four MultiStem programs to clinical stage, including for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, inflammatory bowel disease (where the Company is partnered with Pfizer), and for preventing graft vs. host disease following hematopoietic stem cell transplant. Athersys has forged several key strategic alliances and collaborations with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as world-renowned research institutions in the United States and Europe to further develop its platform and products.



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### ***Project Background & Goals***

Multiple sclerosis occurs when the immune system attacks the brain and spinal cord. One approach to repairing the nervous system is cell therapy – introducing replacement cells from a different source. Research into the potential of cell therapy is proceeding rapidly, using cells obtained from a variety of adult and non-adult sources.

MultiStem is a proprietary adult stem cell therapy which has advanced to the clinical trial stage for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, inflammatory bowel disease (where the Company is partnered with Pfizer), and for preventing graft vs. host disease following hematopoietic stem cell transplant. This experimental cell therapy appears to stimulate the production of therapeutic proteins and other molecules that regulate the immune system, protect damaged cells, and promote tissue repair.

Now Fast Forward is providing Athersys with funding to test MultiStem in mouse models of MS, so that they can generate the data necessary to apply to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin future clinical trials in people with progressive MS.

Athersys is collaborating on this project with Robert H. Miller, PhD, Vice President for Research at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Miller is an expert in nervous system diseases such as MS, and in laboratory models needed to test potential therapies. His research focuses on understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms that regulate the growth and regulation of myelin-making cells in the brain and spinal cord.

If successful, this project could lead to a new therapeutic strategy to stimulate nervous system repair and restore function in people with MS.