



FastForwardSM

General Fund

This project is funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society through Fast Forward, LLC, in order to accelerate the commercial development of MS treatments. The Society and Fast Forward connect university-based MS research with private-sector drug development and fund small biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies to develop innovative new MS therapies and repurpose FDA-approved drugs as new treatments for MS.

<i>Primary Investigator</i> Steven H. Nye, Ph.D. ENDECE Neural LLC Mequon, WI	<i>Project Title</i> Examining the potential of new estrogen receptor activator analogs to remyelinate in a cuprizone animal model of MS	<i>Amount to be Committed</i> \$225,000 Term – 12 months
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About the Company

ENDECE Neural, is a privately held biotechnology company at the forefront of developing therapies to repair and potentially reverse damage caused by demyelinating diseases, such as multiple sclerosis. ENDECE Neural is a wholly owned subsidiary of ENDECE, a drug discovery company located near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. ENDECE was founded in 2006 for the purpose of discovering novel, small molecule drugs that regulate multiple genes within specific signaling pathways by modulating nuclear receptor activation. The company's mission is to create new opportunities for treating diseases with largely unmet medical needs.



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Project Background & Goals

The development of therapies designed to promote the regeneration of lost myelin – the nerve-covering substance that is a main target of the immune attack in MS – is currently a major unmet need in MS treatment. Oligodendrocytes are the cells that produce myelin in the brain and spinal cord, and the generation of oligodendrocytes from immature oligodendrocyte “precursor” cells is a required preliminary step for myelin regeneration.

ENDECE is pursuing the development of NDC-1308, a chemical compound similar to the sex hormone estradiol. They have preliminary evidence that NDC-1308 treatment for two weeks led to a significant increase in the number of immature oligodendrocytes and mature, myelin-forming oligodendrocytes in an animal model with myelin damage. In the laboratory, they have also found that NDC-1308 promotes myelin formation around rodent nerve fibers. Now they are confirming these findings in an animal model, and conducting research to optimize the dose.

This study can help bring a promising new treatment strategy forward in the pipeline, with potential to be developed into a therapy to restore function to people with MS.