MISSION OF THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

The Society's mission is: We mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. The Society was organized in 1946 by people with a particular interest in multiple sclerosis and it is chartered as a non-profit charitable agency under the laws of the State of New York. The Society is empowered to make grants of money for use by individuals within lawfully established agencies or institutions to further its mission.

IMPORTANT THEMES IN MS RESEARCH

The National MS Society has developed a strategic roadmap -- the Strategic Response: 2011-2015 (http://www.nationalmssociety.org/about-the-society/our-strategic-response/index.aspx) -- that strives to be a response to the brutal facts of living with MS and identifies what must be done to achieve a world free of MS. Through this response we strive to be a driving force of MS research and treatment to stop disease progression, restore function, and end MS forever. The five research objectives outlined in the Strategic Response were developed through recommendations from our Research Programs Advisory Committee and other stakeholders in the community including researchers, physicians, and people with MS. These objectives are:

• We better understand the mechanisms that lead to disease progression and we accelerate the development of new therapies.
• We pursue new avenues to discover how nerve cells are damaged and potentially repaired.
• We pursue new rehabilitation techniques and symptomatic treatments to restore neurological function and enhance quality of life.
• We identify risk and triggering factors that cause MS, and understand the biological interactions that lead to its development so that MS can be prevented.
• We expand and strengthen the quantity and quality of MS research worldwide to accelerate new discoveries and treatments for people with MS.

Going forward, we will be announcing program priorities, RFAs and other funding mechanisms to help us achieve these objectives. Some areas of interest include:

- Immunologic basis of MS
- CNS repair and neuroprotection
- Biology of glia/myelin
- Genetics and gender differences
- Understanding and preventing disease progression
- Infectious triggers and risk factors
- Cognitive and psychosocial issues
- Patient management, care and rehabilitation
- Pathology of MS
- Clinical trials
- Health care delivery and policy
- Measures of disease activity, imaging, surrogate and biomarkers

The Society also emphasizes industry partnerships by providing milestone-driven drug development funding to private companies. Read more about our Fast Forward initiative at: www.FastForward.org.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESEARCH GRANTS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

The intention of the Society is to encourage and support only the highest quality of research and training in areas related to multiple sclerosis. For investigator-initiated grants and training awards, the primary appointment of the principal investigator must be with a not-for-profit institution, and the payee must be a not-for-profit institution. The principal investigator must be authorized to submit an application under the terms of that institution. For Society-initiated research contracts, research at for-profit organizations may be eligible for support.

The administration of the Research Grant, Collaborative Center Award, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Physician Fellowship, Career Transition Fellowship, Senior Faculty Award and Weaver Award Programs as well as the Pilot Research and Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Programs is the responsibility and function of the Research Programs Department of the National Office of the Society, with the aid and advice of various permanent and ad hoc committees and other special consultants. These advisors are selected for their knowledge within their chosen fields and for their recognized

accomplishments in research. All applications for support are reviewed and evaluated by the appropriate reviewing bodies. The payment of grants and awards approved for the support of these programs is contingent upon the availability to the Society of the necessary funds.

The Society has Changed Its Application Procedures

The following changes to the Society's application procedures have been implemented as of May 2011:

- A new Web site has been established for preparation and submission of proposals. The new Web site is www.mssocietyapplyonline.org
- Passwords for accessing the site never expire and a new password will not be needed for each cycle.
- Submission of proposals is now exclusively electronic for **all** parts of the proposal, including signature page and appendix materials, and no paper copies of any part of the proposal will be sent to the Society.
- The application process itself now consists of two parts, a short pre-application and the full application.
- The basic elements of the application remain largely unchanged but have been re-ordered and reformatted.

How to Register with the New System

If you do not already have a password, you will need to register and be approved for access to the Web site. Go to www.mssocietyapplyonline.org and once you are at the login page, click on "Register Here." Complete the online registration form and submit your registration by clicking on the word "Register." This will submit your request for access to the site to the Research Programs staff of the Society. The staff will review your registration information to verify that you are qualified to apply for funding from the Society. If approved, you will receive an e-mail message containing your login credentials.

Once you have obtained a user ID and password, go to www.mssocietyapplyonline.org and log in at the login page. Once you log in, you will be able to see which funding opportunities are active along with the deadlines for each. You will also be able to begin the preparation of your application. In the new system your password never expires and you will not need to obtain a new password in order to apply for other funding programs or subsequent cycles.

The Pre-Application

In the past prospective applicants were required to contact a member of the Society's Research Programs staff to obtain clearance before submitting a proposal. While the Society still encourages personal contact and discussion of possible ideas for proposals, in the new system this process has been formalized somewhat through the use of a "Pre-Application" step. For each funding opportunity, there is a pre-application that must be completed and submitted to the Society before the applicant can prepare a full application. The pre-application is reviewed by a member of the Research Programs staff to ensure that the research idea is consistent with the mission of the Society. Once the idea is approved you will receive an e-mail message from the system and you will be able to begin preparation of the full application.

How to Complete the Pre-Application

Once you are logged in, click on "Funding Opportunities" and then on the funding opportunity for which you wish to apply. Once you are on the "Opportunity Details" page, the steps are as follows:

- Click on "Start a New Application"
- Complete the "General Information" page which consists of the name of the PI, the title of the study, and the name of the organization.
- Save the "General Information" page.
- Click on "Go to Application Forms."
- In the text box that opens, insert a paragraph or two that provides a "Brief Summary" of your idea.
- Save the "Brief Summary."
- Then click on "Mark as Complete" and "Submit."

When you submit the pre-application, it will automatically be sent to the appropriate program officer at the Society for review.

How to Complete the Full Application

Once your pre-application has been approved you can log in and begin to prepare the full application. When you log in, click on "Funding Opportunities." Then click on the name of the funding opportunity for which you are applying. This will take you to a page listing any applications that you have open for editing. Find the application that you wish to work on (this would be the pre-application that you submitted and which was approved by the Society) and click on the words "Apply Final" on the right side of the list. This will open the "General Information" section. Make any necessary changes and then click on "Save." When the next page appears, click on "Go to Application Forms." You are now ready to complete the remaining sections of the application.

Detailed instructions for completion of the full application are available in each of the funding opportunity sections of the Web site.

RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS OR ANIMALS

The Society will not support research involving human subjects without prior receipt of written approval of the specific research proposed from the grantee institution's Human Institutional Review Board (IRB or other appropriate Committee). This approval must be signed by the Chairperson of the Committee and a copy of the letter must be received by the Society on an annual basis during the funding term of the research award.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports funding of biomedical research utilizing all types of human cells. The Society also supports adherence to the strictest ethical and procedural guidelines for the use of these cells.

For research involving animals, written approval from the grantee's Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee (IACUC) must be received by the Society prior to the release of any funds. This approval must be signed by the Chairperson of the Committee, and a copy of the letter must be received by the Society on an annual basis during the funding term of the research award.

All biomedical research which involves the use of animals must adhere to the following principles:

1. Animals shall be used in biomedical research only when no other means of obtaining scientifically sound, valid and useful results are available.

2. The minimum number of appropriate animals required to obtain and validate results shall be used.

3. The acquisition, care and use of animals must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

4. Certifications must be received from research facilities prior to being approved for a research grant that the facility(ies), its researchers and employees adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and any appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards.

5. In cases requiring the death of an animal, only the most appropriate and humane form of euthanasia shall be used consistent with the purpose of the research.

The document, entitled Principles for Use of Animals and Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, is available from the Office for Protection from Research Risks, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892.

INDEMNIFICATION POLICY

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society is not responsible for any claim, judgment, award, damages, settlement, negligence or malpractice arising from the Research Project or investigation related to this Award. The Awardee and Institution acknowledge responsibility for the conduct of research or investigations related to this Award, and release the MS Society from all claims or liability that may arise from the conduct of research or investigations related to this Award resulting from any act or omission on the part of the Awardee and Institution, their employees, agents or representatives to the extent allowed by applicable law.

REVIEW AND AWARD SCHEDULE FOR APPLICATIONS

Type of Application	Deadline for Receipt of Application	Scientific Advisory Committee Review	Council Review	Official Notice	Earliest Possible Start Date
RESEARCH GRANTS	Early February	April/May	June	Late June	October 1
	Mid-August	October/ November	January	February	April 1
MENTOR-BASED POSTDOCTORAL REHABILITATION AWARDS	Early August	October/ November	January	February	July 1
HARRY WEAVER AWARDS	Mid-August	November/ December	January	Mid-January	July 1
SENIOR FACULTY AWARDS	Mid-August	November/ December	January	Mid-January	July 1
PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIPS	Mid-August	November/ December	January	Mid-January	July 1
NATIONAL MS SOCIETY-ABF MS CLINICIAN SCIENTIST	Mid-August	November/ December	January	Mid-January	July 1
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	Mid-August	November/ December	January	Mid-January	July 1
PILOT RESEARCH	Quarterly	Quarterly	----------	2-3 months after Receipt	Immediate upon approval
HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AND POLICY RESEARCH (HCDPR) CONTRACTS	Letter of Intent: September Application: January	March	June	Late June	July 1
CAREER TRANSITION FELLOWSHIPS	Preliminary application April/May, full application mid-August	November/ December	January	Mid-January	July 1
COLLABORATIVE MS RESEARCH CENTER AWARDS	Early September	----------	January	Mid-January	April 1

INVENTION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1) Recipients of research grants, center awards, postdoctoral training fellowships, transition awards, faculty awards, pilot awards, research contracts, and other research support vehicles (hereinafter known as "GRANTS") from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society shall adhere to the intellectual property policies of the grantee institution, including, if required, the assignment to the grantee institution of title in any invention work to which they have contributed. If the grantee institution has no intellectual property policy providing for such transfer, or elects to waive its rights in such intellectual property, the grantee or the grantee institution shall notify the National Multiple Sclerosis Society promptly and in sufficient time to protect the rights in such intellectual property. To the extent permitted by law, the grantee or the grantee institution shall promptly assign all rights in and to such invention to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or to a third party designated by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

2) All inventions made with the support, in whole or in part, with GRANTS from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society shall be reported by the grantee institution in confidence to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society within one month of their disclosure to personnel at the grantee institution responsible for such matters. Both the grantee and the grantee institution will make reasonable efforts to refrain from any action that might reasonably impair the ability to obtain patent protection for any invention, such as submitting for publication a manuscript describing the invention or offering the invention for sale or public use prior to filing an application to patent the invention.

3) Unless prohibited by federal law, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society shall participate in income and other economic benefits derived from any such inventions by entering into an agreement with the grantee institution at the time of such disclosure. Such agreement shall provide that income derived from the invention shall be distributed in proportion to the contributions by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the grantee institution and, where applicable, other sponsoring agencies, after deductions of reasonable expenses incurred in obtaining intellectual property protection.

4) In the event that the grantee institution elects not to pursue patent protection for an invention as to which the grantee is named as an inventor or co-inventor, or to discontinue patent prosecution or maintenance for any such invention, the grantee institution will notify the National Multiple Sclerosis Society promptly and in a reasonable time to protect the intellectual property rights in and to such invention. To the extent permitted by law, the grantee institution shall promptly assign all rights in such invention to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or to a third party designated by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

5) Upon issuance of a patent, the grantee institution shall itself through the identification of a license or through a licensee take appropriate steps to commercialize the invention in a timely fashion. The grantee institution shall include provisions in all exclusive licenses requiring diligent commercialization of the invention, setting appropriate milestones to measure licensee performance and permitting cancellation of the license (or conversion of the license to a nonexclusive license) in the event the licensee fails to achieve the required performance levels. If the grantee institution or its licensee has not taken effective steps, within five years after a U.S. patent issues on an invention supported by Society GRANTS and administered by the grantee institution, to commercialize the invention, the grantee institution shall assign title in and to such patent to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or its designee, unless prohibited by law or unless the grantee institution can show reasonable cause as to why it should retain title.

6) The grantee institution shall report annually to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society on its commercialization efforts resulting from GRANTS, including the names of current licensees, the relevant terms of any licenses that have been executed and the receipt of any royalties due under such licenses.

FAST FORWARD

Fast Forward is a nonprofit organization, a separate and wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, established in order to accelerate the development of new 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 and pharmaceutical companies to develop innovative new MS therapies and repurpose FDA-approved drugs as new treatments for MS. Proposals will be solicited from the companies. For more information, please visit the website: http://www.fastforward.org

The Society is not obliged to provide funds through Fast Forward to pursue any invention that was developed originally from support, in whole or in part, with research grants, center awards, postdoctoral training fellowships, transition awards, faculty awards, pilot awards, research contracts, and other research support vehicles from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In addition, the Society does not forfeit its rights to any invention that was developed originally from support, in whole or in part, with National MS Society awards if the Society does not fund a project through Fast Forward.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REGULATIONS

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society adheres to a policy of equal opportunity in employment and requires that all United States institutions to which its research or training awards are made adhere to federally mandated equal opportunity policies; institutions outside of the U.S. must adhere to locally applicable equal opportunity policies.

AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES

Investigators who receive funds from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society are expected to share research resources developed with the Society's support with other qualified investigators working on multiple sclerosis. Examples of such resources include (but are not limited to) cell lines and clones, antibodies, and nucleotide and protein sequences. In addition, awardees are expected to deposit data into the appropriate public database upon publication of research results.

POLICY ON SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT AND FRAUD

Any institution that receives funds from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society must have written policy guidelines on conflict of interest and scientific misconduct and fraud. It is the responsibility of the institution and the grantee/awardee to inform the National Multiple Sclerosis Society immediately, in writing, of any institutional investigation into the conduct of an investigator whose work is supported by Society, and to keep the Society informed in a timely manner of the progress and outcome of such investigation. A finding by the institutional investigation that the investigator was guilty of research fraud or misconduct is sufficient grounds to terminate Society support of a project, and may jeopardize future support for the investigator from the Society.