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Together we can move toward a world free of MS.

What's in a name?

We received a thoughtful letter in November—and we think it's worth sharing.

I am writing about the “Advanced MS” section of **Momentum**, which I have deeply appreciated ... but I would like to urge you to change the title.

Perhaps you could rename it “Disability Issues” or “Dealing with Disability” or any name that doesn't imply that these issues come only with advanced disease—or that all advanced disease necessarily brings these issues, especially since recent approaches may well change the course of MS for those who are newly diagnosed today.

Although it's not the norm, many people with MS face severe disability from the start, some at a very young age. They are people like me.

I see two opposite scenarios: Imagine a new father, just diagnosed, who reads “Advanced MS” and feels his heart clench as he assumes this will be him in 20 years, with his children as his caregivers. Yet with recent advances he may never have any significant disability.

Now imagine a college student who wakes up a paraplegic and is diagnosed that day. Where does she fit in? She's not “advanced”—she's just been diagnosed.—P.H.S., Va.

We struggled with choices for names when we reformatted the magazine, and the work isn't over. A section called “Disability Issues,” for example, would include a range of problems from dizziness and poor memory all the way to paraplegia. All are disabilities. Bottom line: What's the best way to define categories in a disease that can be so incredibly variable? Readers, what do you think?

- Keep “Advanced MS”
- Use “Disability Issues”
- Try “Major Challenges”
- Or—send us your idea.

Please go to nationalMSSociety.org/newname or mail me a postcard.

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