



## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

August 14, 2009	CC:
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<b>2009 Lifetime Achievement Awards</b>	

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to volunteers with thirty-five (35) or more years of service who have steadfastly given of themselves in the movement to a world free of multiple sclerosis.

In 2009 we honor three individuals for their commitment!

Dorothy Cooper has given her time and talent to the Southern New York Chapter and was nominated by Debby Bennett, Vice President, Programs and Services.

Marianne Green has given her time and talent to the Minnesota Chapter and was nominated by Steve Korngable, Director of Programs and Tim Holtz, Director of Programs.

Dr. Henry McFarland has given his time and talent to the National Capital Chapter and was nominated by Diane Metzger, Communications Manager.

We will begin highlighting the 2009 Lifetime Achievement honorees on the Society's web site the week of August 17.

Congratulations to these three outstanding volunteers!

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<b>2009 Volunteer Hall of Fame</b>	

Congratulations to the following volunteers inducted into the Volunteer Hall of Fame for 2009!

### **Advocacy:**

Scott Hanson nominated by Colleen Kalt and Kim Kinner of the Wisconsin Chapter

Bob Hunter nominated by Lori Hurd and Angela Jacildone of the Mid Atlantic Chapter

Dr. Eugene May nominated by Patty Shepherd-Barnes of the Greater Washington Chapter

Ginny Morse nominated by Arlyn White and Michelle Dickson of the Central New England Chapter

Tammy Pilisuk nominated by David Hartman and Stewart Ferry, State Director of Public Policy for California

Nancita Rogers nominated by Mark Roeder and Leah Aiello Paley of the Maryland Chapter

Amy Van Meter nominated by Leon LeBuffe and Jeanette Chian of the Southern California Chapter

### **Fundraising:**

Jim Donaghy nominated by Ruth Brenner and Jenny Powers of the New York City Chapter

Ian Duncan nominated by Colleen Kalt and Bonnie Debroux of the Wisconsin Chapter

Bill Gillispie nominated by Maureen Reeder and Emily Wilson of the Minnesota Chapter

Brad Robbins nominated by Mark Neagli and Kelli Dreiling of the Lone Star Chapter

John Simonetti nominated by Janet Kramer and Guyla Wehman of the Ohio Buckeye Chapter

Lisa and Barry Steinman nominated by Megan DiPanni of the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Kathy Van de Ven Kay Julian of the Mid America Chapter

### **Health Professionals:**

Aliza Ben-Zacharia, MSN, ANP-BC nominated by Ruth Brenner and Robin Einbinder of the New York City Chapter

Dr. Roger Cooke nominated by Robert Hansen and Kerry Wiltzius of the Inland Northwest Chapter

Deena Lisak, RN, MA, MSCN nominated by Elana Sullivan and Sarah Allan of the Michigan Chapter

Richard M. Ransohoff, MD nominated by Janet Kramer and Guyla Wehman of the Ohio Buckeye Chapter

Judy Soderberg nominated by Maureen Reeder and Emily Wilson of the Minnesota Chapter

### **Programs and Services:**

Dave Anderson nominated by Maureen Reeder and Emily Wilson of the Minnesota Chapter

Janet Cordell, RN nominated by Paula Cortner of the Oklahoma Chapter

Sharon Looney nominated by Robert Hansen and Kerry Wiltzius of the Inland Northwest Chapter

Janice Park nominated by Randee Forstein of the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Becky and Lester Ranson nominated by Lori Hurd and Luanne Kirkland of the Mid Atlantic Chapter

Rana Russell, FNP nominated by Mark Neagli and Elaine Liserio of the Mid America Chapter

Sue West nominated by Ruth Brenner and Andrea Arzt of the New York City Chapter

### **Scientific Researchers:**

Dr. Henry McFarland nominated by Chris Broullire and Diane Metzger of the National Capital Chapter

Jenny Pan-Yun Ting, Ph.D. nominated by Jeff Furst and Kaye Gooch of the Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Caroline Whitacre, Ph.D. nominated by Janet Kramer and Guyla Wehman of the Ohio Buckeye Chapter

We will begin highlighting the 2009 Volunteer Hall of Fame honorees on the Society's web site the week of August 17.

Thank you to the selection committees led by Volunteer Hall of Fame liaisons Renee Vandlik: Advocacy, Betty Ross: Fundraising, Nancy Holland: Health Professionals, Kim Koch: Programs and Services and Dr. Patricia O'Looney: Scientific Researchers.

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<b>2009 National Volunteer of the Year Award</b>	

The National MS Society is proud to recognize the recipient of the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award!

Kevin O'Sullivan was nominated by the Paula Cortner of the Oklahoma Chapter.

For over twenty-three years Kevin has shown leadership, service to the Society and passion for the Society's mission. Under his leadership the Oklahoma Chapter Board of Trustees was taken to a new level of commitment and camaraderie. Meetings include an educational component, a research update and an understanding of finance necessary for the Chapter to be successful. Board members are engaged and involved in events, programs and fundraising.

Kevin's leadership has benefited the entire organization with service on the National Board of Directors since 2005, holding leadership positions on the National Audit Committee, the Chapter Relations Committee and the Executive Committee. And he has been a spokesperson for the National MS Society, most recently during a heated controversy over proposed legislation in Oklahoma that would greatly limit scientific research that could be performed in the state. Kevin boldly went before television cameras and spoke very plainly about the position of the National MS Society and the importance of this legislation being struck down. He was unafraid to speak out to make a difference in the lives of people with MS.

His ability to lead others to success, his willingness to stand up for what he believes in during a tough situation, and his genuine concern for others, especially those living with MS, are qualities we recognize as we name Kevin O'Sullivan the 2009 Volunteer of the Year!

Our Volunteer of the Year, as well as all of our other volunteer honorees, will be highlighted on the Society's web site beginning the week of August 17.

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### **Where We Stand in Research: Challenges and Opportunities, by Dr. John Richert**

People are always asking ‘What’s going on in MS research?’ But lately, many individuals are also adding, ‘What challenges are we facing in the current economic environment?’ As a response, I believe a quick update on the Society’s research program —where we are now and what is required to maintain critical discovery — will not only address this question, but also let each of us know what we can do to help.

There has never been a more amazing time in MS research than now. Progress is being made at a remarkable rate, and the National MS Society’s 62-year-involvement has driven much of this progress, including the six approved disease-modifying drugs and new therapeutic approaches making their way through the development process.

And even in these challenging economic times, we’re continuing to propel research forward. This year alone, we’re providing over \$33.5 million to support 345 new and ongoing projects in our core research portfolio, plus \$1.5 million for Fast Forward, our drug development subsidiary which continues to attract its own new funding streams. In addition, thanks to the efforts of our MS activists, an additional \$5 million has been specifically set aside for funding MS research out of the 2009 Department of Defense budget.

At the Society, we have three clear research goals — STOP MS, REVERSE THE DAMAGE AND END MS FOREVER. Here are some exciting projects making headway in our three-pronged approach:

- Our portfolio of projects focusing on immune aspects of MS, in particular the large-scale clinical trial of estriol, a pregnancy hormone, to treat MS, and Fast Forward’s recent investments in promising immune-modulating molecules -- are opening up new avenues to **STOP MS**.
- Our research on rehabilitation and health care delivery, and of course the four international teams working on nervous system protection and repair, whose work is funded by the Promise: 2010 campaign, are making tremendous progress, including plans for small-scale clinical trials as offshoots of this initiative to test the safety of cell therapy, are examples of strategies to **REVERSE THE DAMAGE**.

- The definitive scan to search for all common MS-related genes is being performed by the International MS Genetics Consortium, a collaboration launched by Society funding. The wealth of data that will be coming out of this gene scan has the potential to lead us closer than we've ever been to finding ways to stop the disease and **END MS FOREVER**. The shifting economy challenges each of us to prioritize our spending on what's most important. The Society has made some similar choices (which we believe will be temporary) to keep moving MS research forward.

- We've chosen to continue to fund our discovery research portfolio and fellowships at reduced levels.
- We've also chosen to place some research award programs on hold.

These choices, while difficult, offer critically important opportunities for you to ensure that promising avenues don't fall by the wayside.

Exciting new technologies, like gene chips, proteomics, and new imaging techniques are allowing scientists to revisit age-old questions about MS in new and much faster ways. And there are more investigators conducting MS research now than at any other time in history. Now more than ever, we need the flexibility and resources to pursue the most promising leads coming from these and other critical investigations.

We hope that the reduction in research spending will be of short duration, but should it become necessary to continue on this path, we know that some established researchers and some promising young scientists will abandon their focus on MS to move into areas where funding is more plentiful. We have to do everything possible to keep them in the MS field.

Each of us plays a crucial role in fueling MS research and moving us all toward a world free of MS. Now is the time when each of us must take stock of our own priorities and ask ourselves, "What more can I do?" and "Who else do I know who could help?"

We are poised to make quantum leaps forward in our understanding of MS. Re-energizing our growth in philanthropic giving is critical. Please contribute now to ensure that the brightest minds around the world continue to pursue the answers that we so anxiously await.

A comprehensive FAQ is available at:

[http://intranet.nmss.org/Topics/cr/Pages/FAQ\\_Research\\_Actions\\_To\\_Maintain\\_Momentum.pdf](http://intranet.nmss.org/Topics/cr/Pages/FAQ_Research_Actions_To_Maintain_Momentum.pdf)