



## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

<b>Date: August 28, 2009</b>	<b>CC: All</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u><a href="#">Do Not Post on NMSS.org</a></u>	
<b><u>Mark Neagli Named As Regional Executive Vice President</u></b>	

We are pleased to announce that Mark Neagli, current Chapter President, Lone Star Chapter, has accepted the position of Regional Executive Vice President for Region E. The region includes: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

The Regional Executive Vice President is responsible for effectively implementing Society agreed upon priorities in the region with a focus on increased collaboration, leveraging resources, decreasing redundancies and building capacity. As part of his responsibilities, Mark will serve as a member of the President and CEO's senior management team.

In 1987 Mark's leading role and experience in the growing cycling movement led to his active involvement as a volunteer with the Lone Star Chapter's bike event from Houston to Austin. He then joined the chapter staff in 1999 as bike tour director, and became vice president of marketing in 2000. In 2001, Mark served as the chapter's executive vice president and chief operating officer, handling the daily operations and events throughout the chapter. In October 2005, Mark became the Lone Star Chapter President, serving an estimated 20,000 individuals with MS and their family members in 174 Texas counties.

Some of Mark's accomplishments during his tenure as chapter president include the growth of chapter income from \$14 million to \$24 million; increased focus on mission delivery including enhanced and expanded programs and services, increased clinical services and research honor roll funding of over \$6 million in the last three years alone. Mark led the successful joining forces with the North Central Texas Chapter in 2008 to combine efforts and serve more individuals with MS throughout much of the state of Texas. In addition, Mark has served on numerous Society leadership task forces and groups including the Executive Management Team Council on which he was elected by his peers.

Mark has five children and resides in Houston. His hobbies include cycling, hiking, snow skiing and spending time with his family.

Mark will transition to his new role October 1st. Please join us in congratulating Mark Neagli, Regional Executive Vice President.

Joyce Nelson, President and CEO  
303 698 6106

Cyndi Zagieboylo, Chief Field Services Officer  
585 241 9369



**MARKETING**

<b>Date: August 24, 2009</b>	<b>CC: Chapter Presidents</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Do Not Post on NMSS.org</i>	Financial Management
<b><u>Changes in the <i>MSConnection</i> Core Pages Program</u></b>	

**Changes in the *MSConnection* Core Pages program**

Responding to many changes in the economic climate and the world of communication, as well as concerns raised by chapter newsletter editors, the Home Office’s Core Pages program is changing in the new fiscal year.

**Free access for all**

**As of FY10, there is no charge for using the Core Pages in the form that best suits your needs.**

Core pages will be mounted on **SAMS**. Go to “Materials” then “Publications” then click the folder called “***MSConnection***.” As usual, ***MSConnection*** articles will be available preformatted (pages 3 to 10, complete, for chapters producing a 12-page newsletter). They can also be accessed as individual articles for chapters to select individually. Some FY 09 core page stories will be in this file as well, as a start to our Story Bank. Check in anytime after September 15, to view our progress.

**A new schedule**

To further aid newsletter editors, the schedule for the complete unit will be:

- Fall – October 1 (no change)**
- Winter – December 15 (two weeks earlier than last year)**
- Spring – March 15 (also two weeks earlier)**
- Summer – June 15 (two weeks earlier)**

**In development: A Story Bank**

We are moving to a full “Story Bank” system. During the transition, some of the articles slated for the next ***MSConnection*** edition will be put on SAMS as they as soon as they have been vetted, fact-checked, and formatted.

We believe these changes will be useful, especially as we transition to regions, move more communication activity to e-mail and our Web sites, and learn as we go what works best for our clients, donors, and friends.

Help us by sending your feedback – via email or phone calls!

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## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

<b>August 28, 2009</b>	<b>CC:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Do Not Post on NMSS.org</i>	Chapter Presidents
	Research and Clinical
<b>Updated Materials for the Mental Health Program</b>	

We are pleased to announce that the updated, rebranded version of materials for the professional education program, *Psychosocial Interventions in Multiple Sclerosis: Strategies for Mental Health Professionals*, are available on the intranet. The day-long program is designed for chapters to implement on an as needed basis.

This mental health program includes sessions on the following topics:

- Multiple Sclerosis: What You Need to Know About the Disease
- “Trying-on” Symptoms of MS
- Adapting to Life with MS: Emotional Challenges and Coping Strategies
- Cognitive Dysfunction in MS: Recognition, Assessment, Treatment
- Case Studies
- Multiple Sclerosis and Intimacy
- Parenting: Choices and Challenges
- Professional Challenges: What They Didn’t Teach us in Graduate School

The program is directed to mental health professionals interested in learning more about MS. The program is approved for continuing education credit:

- The University of South Florida School of Medicine has approved the program for 6.5 hours of CE credit for psychologists.
- The University of Texas Arlington School of Social Work, Professional Development Program, has approved the program for 6.5 hours of CE units for social workers, licensed professional counselors, and licensed marriage and family therapists.

Chapter staff who are interested in implementing the program are encouraged to review the Chapter Implementation Manual available on the intranet. After reviewing the Manual, please contact Kristin Summers for a list of prospective speakers. To help ensure quality control and to meet the requirements of our CE approvers, speakers should be selected from the list of approved speakers. Approved speakers are licensed mental health professionals who have experience working with people

with MS and/or other chronic illnesses, were recommended by their chapter, and have been through a training session for this program.

Program materials (including the chapter implementation manual, marketing materials, participant and speakers manuals, PowerPoint slide sets, CE fulfillment materials, and other program management forms and templates) are available on the intranet:

Topic>Research and Clinical>Professional Education & Training Resources>  
DocCategory: Mental Health Professionals

By implementing this program, chapters can increase their referral list, identify prospective volunteers, establish themselves as a resource for mental health professionals, and ultimately help people affected by MS move their lives forward by ensuring that mental health professionals are knowledgeable about the psychosocial needs of individuals and families living with MS.

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## RESEARCH/CLINICAL UPDATE

<b>Keyword:</b>	Metformin, AMPK
<b>Section:</b>	IMMUNE FUNCTION
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August 28, 2009

### National MS Society-Funded Study Shows Diabetes Drug Improves Mice with MS-Like Disease

Researchers funded in part by the National MS Society reported that metformin, an oral drug used to treat diabetes, improved MS-like disease in mice. Narender Nath, PhD (Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston) Shailendra Giri, PhD (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN) and colleagues report this study in *The Journal of Immunology* ([2009 Jun 15;182\[12\]:8005-14](#)). Dr. Giri was funded by Society research grants.

Background: In the immune attack that occurs in multiple sclerosis, inflammatory molecules secreted by immune cells damage tissue in the brain and spinal cord. AMPK is an enzyme that plays a role in providing cells with energy. With seed money from a Society pilot research grant, results of which were leveraged to win a larger research grant, Dr. Giri's team has been studying whether this enzyme affects immune cells in lab mice with EAE, an MS-like disease. They recently reported that AMPK is, in fact, absent during EAE in another Society-supported study (*Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications* 2009;386:16-20). Metformin, an oral drug commonly used to treat diabetes, activates AMPK, so they tested whether administering this agent would affect EAE.

The Study: The group administered metformin to mice both before and after disease onset. Treatment showed benefits in both models, delaying disease onset and reducing disease severity in the former, and increasing the rate of recovery in the latter. Metformin inhibited a number of immune messenger proteins, as well as the ability of immune cells to enter the brain. The team found evidence that these effects occurred because metformin activated AMPK in the brain and in immune scavenger cells known as macrophages.

Comment: “The fact that this oral drug, which has a long history of use in the treatment of diabetes, showed some benefit in EAE lends promise to our search for treatments that are relatively inexpensive and that already have a reasonably good safety profile,” said John R. Richert, MD, Executive Vice President of Research & Clinical Programs for the National MS Society. “Clearly, more research is necessary to determine whether this treatment will be a good therapeutic option for people with MS.”

-- Research and Clinical Programs Department