



## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

April 16, 2010

CC: Development

National Research Call on Advancements in the Role of Genetics to be Held April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3-4 PM Eastern

- **Would you like to hear late-breaking results from a comprehensive study on susceptibility genes in MS?**
- **Are you curious how knowing most of the MS genes relate to developing better therapies?**
- **Do you want to know where the future of MS genetics is headed and how quickly it is likely to advance?**

We will address these and many more questions in a 60-minute interview and lively discussion with Dr. David Hafler, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at Yale School of Medicine, and Dr. Patricia O’Looney, the Society’s Vice President of Biomedical Research. Drs. Hafler and O’Looney will be interviewed about this important research, raising questions and soliciting answers. There will be two segments of the call reserved for your questions and those of other participants.

**Dr. David Hafler is the Gilbert H. Glaser Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at Yale School of Medicine and is the Neurologist-in-Chief of the Yale-New Haven Hospital.** Dr. Hafler is part of a consortium of MS genetics researchers working to solve the genetic basis of MS. The consortium is comprised of some of the world’s top MS geneticists, with members from the US, the UK and Australia. He is also Principal Investigator of a collaborative research project further advancing genetics research. Dr. Hafler will share late-breaking results from these studies.

**Dr. Patricia O’Looney** has been with the **National MS Society** since 1988. She currently serves as Vice President of Biomedical Research, directing and overseeing the administration of the Society’s biomedical research funding programs.

National research calls are a great way for donors, donor prospects – including Golden Circle prospects – staff and volunteer leaders to remain abreast of the many avenues by which the Society is advancing discovery into the cause and cure of MS and to hear directly from some of the world’s leading MS researchers about the most progressive science.

Participation in national research calls is growing, as staff has embraced spreading research knowledge to various Society supporters who are critical to increasing awareness and funding of MS research. **We hope you will identify and invite participants in each of the following groups:** major donors or prospects, major gift officers, chapter presidents, additional Society staff members, board members, significant event check writers, top event fundraisers, research advocates and Golden Circle members or prospects. The number of donors/prospects/volunteers that you invite should be consistent with your ability to make personal contact with participants after the call as suggested below.

**\*\*ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED: Dial-in directly at 877.860.4996, Conference ID 53585044. Please share these numbers with donors, staff and volunteers who intend to participate.** If there are multiple participants dialing-in from your chapter offices, please help us manage the costs associated with the calls by calling in from one phone line.

### **How You Can Cultivate Supporters through National Research Calls:**

Identify constituents in the groups outlined above, especially those who have expressed an interest in MS research. Anyone who can get to a phone, whether in an office, home, city or rural area is able to participate. Also consider inviting prospects to join you and others for the call at the chapter office to provide greater participation and cultivation opportunities.

We suggest extending invitations via a conversation over the phone or in person, or via email. **The dial-in information may be provided directly to the participant, as registration for the call is no longer necessary.** If you would like a template email or letter invitation, please contact Mark Basson.

After the call, maximize this cultivation opportunity by speaking with participants about their call experience and exploring their interest in supporting research. The call will be recorded and one CD will be available to each chapter for duplication. Chapters may give the CDs to call participants, donors/prospects unable to participate and future prospects/donors and/or staff.

Calls are also now available under the Research section of the national website at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/research/research-news/ConversationswithMSResearchers/index.aspx>. The CDs and weblink will be available approximately two weeks after the call; CDs must be requested. For additional information, an invitation template, or to request a CD recording of the call, please contact Mark Basson at [Mark.Basson@nmss.org](mailto:Mark.Basson@nmss.org) or by phone at 303.698.6100 x 15187.

### **Carrie Radant**

National Director, Donor Development  
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<b>April 16, 2010</b>	<b>CC: Development</b>
	Marketing
	Programs & Services
<b><u>CCSVI Web Forum Now Posted Online</u></b>	

The April 14 Live Web Forum “CCSVI and what it could mean to people living with MS” that took place at the American Academy of Neurology meeting is now posted on the national site for viewing at: [www.nationalmssociety.org/ccsvi](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/ccsvi) A transcript of the event will follow shortly.

Over 4,000 people pre-registered to watch the live web forum and we are pleased that viewers were able to participate from around the world, and that the video is posted for anyone who may have missed the panel discussion.

Panelists included Dr. Paolo Zamboni from the University of Ferrara in Italy, whose research has been at the center of the heightened interest in this topic; as well as Dr. Robert Zivadinov from the University of Buffalo, who is conducting a clinical study of CCSVI; Dr. Andrew Common head radiologist at St. Michaels Hospital at the University of Toronto; and Dr. Aaron Miller, from Mt. Sinai and the Society’s Chief Medical Officer.

If you have questions about the web forum please contact:

Becca Kornfeld [Becca.Kornfeld@nmss.org](mailto:Becca.Kornfeld@nmss.org)

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## DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 2010	CC:
<b>Exciting, low cost opportunity for team captains to purchase team t-shirts – great opportunity for late season walks and bike rides</b>	

We are pleased to share an opportunity with you and your Walk MS team captains, brought to us by our national partner Pure Protein.

Pure Protein is extending access to their team t-shirt ordering site to all teams nationwide – what this means is team captains will have the opportunity to order team shirts at cost with no markup. All your team captains will need to do is go to [www.teampureprotein.com](http://www.teampureprotein.com), upload their team logo and/or photo, and order their custom team t-shirts.

Shirts will be available in orange and white and cost \$7.50 per shirt plus a one time set up fee and the cost of shipping. Teams must order a minimum of 6 shirts, and shirts will be delivered in 14 days.

This is a great opportunity for chapters with walks later in the spring, summer and fall. And, if you have bike teams looking for team t-shirts (not jerseys), this is an opportunity for them as well.

How you can spread the word:

Please post the following copy and link on your team landing pages and in upcoming email communications to your team captains. You can also publicize this at any in-person meetings or events with your team captains:

Looking for a low cost way to build team camaraderie and wear your team pride on your sleeve, literally?! Through our partnership with Pure Protein, they are giving us access to their team t-shirt site and the opportunity to purchase t-shirts at cost – that means no markups! Simply go to [www.teampureprotein.com](http://www.teampureprotein.com) and you can buy team t-shirts, customized with your team logo and/or photo, and share your team pride with everyone in the MS movement! T-shirts cost 7.50 per shirt plus a one-time set up fee and the cost of shipping. A minimum of 6 shirts must be ordered with 14 days for delivery. Thank you to Pure Protein for underwriting the cost of this opportunity and for their support of the MS movement.

Questions? Contact Becca Kornfeld ([Becca.Kornfeld@nmss.org](mailto:Becca.Kornfeld@nmss.org)) or Sarah Klein ([sarah.klein@nmss.org](mailto:sarah.klein@nmss.org)).



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## RESEARCH/CLINICAL UPDATE

cc: Chapter President, Programs

**April 16, 2010**

### **Noted Physician/Scientist David Hafler Wins 2010 John Dystel Prize for MS Research**

Professor David A. Hafler, MD, has been chosen by a committee of his peers to receive the National MS Society/American Academy of Neurology's 2010 John Dystel Prize for Multiple Sclerosis Research. Dr. Hafler (Yale University, New Haven, CT) is being honored for fundamental discoveries related to MS in fields such as immunology and genetics, and for bringing clinical importance to basic science findings. The \$15,000 prize is being presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology in Toronto.

“Dr. Hafler is the quintessential physician-scientist,” said Vijay Kuchroo, DVM, PhD (Harvard Medical School), who nominated Dr. Hafler. “He has been a leader in elucidating the cause of multiple sclerosis with the rapid translation of those findings to novel therapies. He has consistently led the field in his ground breaking experiments, rapidly applying new technologies and his insights into a better understanding of the pathophysiology of MS.”

Dr. Hafler's contributions: Dr. Hafler's early work in immunology dramatically enhanced our understanding of the immune attack that is launched on the brain and spinal cord in MS, specifically the actions of the major player in this attack – T cells. Early in his career he received a National MS Society Harry Weaver Neuroscience Award to support his research efforts.

Dr. Hafler was the first to provide evidence that circulating T cells migrated into the brain and spinal cord. ([The New England Journal of Medicine 1985;312:1405](#)) His laboratory consistently developed novel methods of studying T cells, and was among the first to apply the techniques of T cell cloning, by which researchers can amplify and study these cells more closely. ([The Journal of Experimental Medicine 1988;167:1625](#)) Dr. Hafler went on to demonstrate that myelin-reactive T cells are activated in people with MS while in subjects without MS, they are in a resting stage. ([The Journal of Experimental Medicine 1994;179:973](#)) Dr. Hafler also was among the

first to demonstrate a defect in the function of regulatory T cells in people with MS ([The Journal of Experimental Medicine 2004;199:971](#))

Dr. Hafler has been involved in the translation of such findings to clinical trials; his team was the first to infuse anti-T cell monoclonal antibodies into people with autoimmune disease ([The Journal of Immunology 1988;141;131](#)). Dr. Hafler's clinical research also includes studies of T cell vaccination, rapamycin (a drug used to fight transplant rejection), and CTLA4Ig (a molecule that blocks activation of T cells).

Dr. Hafler's efforts have propelled MS genetics research forward exponentially. In 2003, he put together a team with Drs. Stephen Hauser (University of California, San Francisco) Alastair Compston (University of Cambridge) and Eric Lander (Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard), to successfully compete for the Palmer Collaborative MS Research Center Award: MS Targeted Haplotype Project from the Society to pool expertise and resources in attempts to speed work toward discovering MS genes.

The Center award allowed the investigators to form the International MS Genetics Consortium, a collaborating group of investigators with expertise in genetics, database design/construction, and clinical assessment and immunology of MS. The IMSGC completed the largest replicated whole genome scan (scan of all the genes in the body) for MS to date. ([The New England Journal of Medicine 2007; 357:851](#)), identifying several genes that may contribute to MS susceptibility. These and recent efforts will likely lead to the development of more effective ways to treat the disease, and open the door to uncovering the cause of MS, which may lead to its prevention.

Sharing knowledge: Dr. Hafler's broad range of expertise is evident in his contributions to the scientific community. He is co-founder of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies – now a leading international meeting for clinical immunologists – and a member of the executive council of the International Society of Neuroimmunology. Dr. Hafler is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, The American Neurological Association, and the Alpha Omega Society, and serves on the editorial boards of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation* and *The Journal of Experimental Medicine*.

Dr. Hafler has authored or coauthored more than 300 publications relating to MS, autoimmunity, and medical genetics. He is highly sought after as a speaker and planner of numerous international meetings relating to these fields. Dr. Hafler has trained over 60 post-doctoral fellows and graduate students, many of whom are now professors and leaders in the MS field, including Drs. Kai Wucherpfennig, Jingwu Zhang, and Amit Bar-Or.

Dr. Hafler shares his insight directly with people with MS, maintaining a role in MS clinical settings since 1985, at Brigham & Women's Hospital and now at Yale New Haven Hospital.

His clinical efforts have earned him a place on the list of “Best Doctors in America,” as well as Boston Magazine’s list of “Best Doctors in Boston.”

The Prize: The \$15,000 Dystel Prize is given jointly by the National MS Society and the American Academy of Neurology, and is funded through the Society’s John Dystel Multiple Sclerosis Research Fund. Society Honorary Life National Board of Directors member Oscar Dystel and his late wife Marion established this fund in 1994 in honor of their son John Jay Dystel, an attorney whose promising career was cut short by progressive disability from MS. (John died of complications of the disease in June 2003.) Previous winners of the Prize are Drs. Donald Paty (1995), Cedric Raine (1996), John Kurtzke (1997), Henry McFarland (1998), W. Ian McDonald (1999), Kenneth Johnson (2000), John Prineas (2001), Stephen Waxman (2002), Bruce Trapp (2003), Lawrence Steinman (2004), Jack Antel (2005), William Sibley (2006), Howard Weiner (2007), Stephen Hauser (2008), and David Miller (2009). [Read about other Dystel Prize winners.](#)

Biography: Dr. Hafler is the Gilbert H. Glaser Professor and Chairman Department of Neurology, Yale School of Medicine and is the Neurologist-in-Chief of the Yale-New Haven Hospital. He earned his medical degree at the University of Miami School of Medicine and completed his internship in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins followed by a neurology residency at Cornell Medical Center-New York Hospital in New York. Dr. Hafler received training in immunology at the Rockefeller University and at Harvard, where he was on the faculty for 26 years. At Harvard, he was the Jack, Sadie and David Breakstone Professor of Neurology (Neuroscience), and a neurologist at the Brigham and Women's Hospital; he is currently Professor Emeritus at Harvard, where he also served on the faculty of the Harvard-MIT Health Science and Technology. He was a Harvey Weaver Scholar of the National MS Society and a Jacob Javits Merit Award Recipient from the NIH. He moved to Yale in September of 2009 to Chair the Department of Neurology.

-- Research and Clinical Programs Department