



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

January 4, 2013

CC:

New Client Publication Available

A new publication – *How to Choose the Mobility Device that is Right for You* is available to help people understand the full range of tools available to help them stay functionally mobile, comfortable and safe. Originally developed as part of a Society-funded grant to Dr. Lisa Iezzoni, the booklet offers full-color photos of devices ranging from the simplest cane to the most complex power chair, guidance on how to determine if and when a device might be appropriate, and important safety tips. This publication also introduces readers to assistive technology professionals and outlines the steps involved in a comprehensive evaluation for a wheeled mobility device.

How to Choose the Mobility Device that is Right for You is available from Chapter Supplies. Contact chapterorders@nmss.org for pricing and ordering. (Item code ES 6051; minimum order quantity: 50)

Two new companion publications about mobility devices also have recently been created for healthcare professionals:

- *Talking about Wheeled Mobility* (www.nationalMSSociety.org/TalkingAboutWheeledMobility) is available to help healthcare professionals discuss mobility aids with their patients.
- The new Clinical Bulletin – *Seating and Mobility Evaluations for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis* (www.nationalMSSociety.org/ClinicalBulletins) offers healthcare professionals a detailed description of the steps involved in a thorough evaluation of a person's mobility needs and seating requirements.

If you have questions about these professional publications, contact Rosalind Kalb at rosalind.kalb@nmss.org or 212-476-0479, ext. 10479.

For questions about this and other client publications, contact Wenda Carlson at wenda.carlson@nmss.org or 303-698-6100, ext. 15152.



National Multiple Sclerosis Society
733 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017-3288
Tel +1 212.986.3240
Fax +1 212.986.7981
E-mail nat@nmss.org
Nationalmssociety.org

RESEARCH/CLINICAL UPDATE

cc: Chapter President, Programs, Development

January 3, 2012

Fast Forward, LLC and EMD Serono, Inc. Announce Recipients of Funding for Multiple Sclerosis Research -- up to \$1.4 million in 2012 to accelerate early-stage research in MS

Fast Forward, LLC, a not-for-profit organization established by the National MS Society, and EMD Serono, Inc., a subsidiary of Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany), announced the third group of recipients to receive funding through their collaboration, which is designed to accelerate innovation and commercial development of MS therapies.

The awards total approximately \$1.4 million and will be distributed from the Accelerating Commercial Development Fund created by Fast Forward and EMD Serono to encourage early-stage drug discovery for MS. The following organizations will receive funding:

- **ACADIA Pharmaceuticals** / University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) (Principal Researchers: Roger Olsson, Ph.D. and Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D.) will receive \$545,380 over 12 months to perform research to identify estrogen receptor beta agonist as a potential treatment of MS.
- **Vicore Pharma AB** / Uppsala University and Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Principal Researchers: Professor Mats Larhed and Dr. Ulrike Steckelings) will receive \$531,300 over 18 months to perform research to identify angiotensin AT2-receptor agonists as a potential treatment of MS.
- **Axxam SpA** (Principal Researcher: Chiara Liberati, Ph.D.) will receive \$402,000 over 12 months to identify antagonists of the chloride intracellular channel 1 expressed by activated microglia, which could form the basis for the development of potential new treatments for neurodegeneration in MS.

“Advancing new treatments for people with MS requires continuing research and discovery in order to find new and better treatments,” said Dr. Timothy Coetzee, Chief Research Officer at the National MS Society and Fast Forward. “We are pleased to have the opportunity to

advance research through the continued collaboration between Fast Forward and EMD Serono. We remain committed to being a driving force of research and treatment options to stop MS, restore function, and end MS forever, and we look forward to learning more from the results of these innovative projects.”

Fast Forward and EMD Serono entered into an initial two-year, worldwide agreement in March 2009, and recently extended the collaboration. As part of the up to \$19 million collaborative agreement with Fast Forward, EMD Serono provides the majority of funding for the research awards, with Fast Forward contributing 10 percent of the total financing of the awards disseminated from each of the two funds.

Read more (www.fastforward.org) about Fast Forward.