National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

List of Current Research Projects Funded by the National MS Society

Sorted by State/Country

April 2013

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National Multiple Sclerosis Society
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Introduction

The National MS Society is committed to a world free of MS, advancing a comprehensive strategy of promising research aimed at stopping the progression of the disease and restoring function for all those living with the disease; and ultimately ending MS forever. Since its founding in 1946, the Society has propelled research forward into many of the currently available therapies and treatments by allocating some $820 million.

We support a unique, comprehensive approach that funds research activities spanning all types and stages of research ensuring that promising paths are not overlooked. Whether it's academic and early discovery research, translational research tests ideas for use in people, or the commercial development that results in therapeutic solutions for testing, and clinical trials, we drive promising research that can impact those living with multiple sclerosis.

The Society's Strategic Response to MS for 2011–2015 focuses on achieving these objectives:

- Better understanding the scientific mechanisms that lead to disease progression and accelerating the development of new therapies;
- Pursuing new avenues to discover how nerve cells are damaged and potentially repaired;
- Fostering new rehabilitation techniques and symptomatic treatments to restore neurological function and enhance quality of life;
- Identifying risk and triggering factors that cause MS, and understanding the biological interactions that lead to its development so that MS can be prevented; and
- Expanding and strengthening the quantity and quality of MS research worldwide to accelerate new discoveries and treatments for people with MS.

For more information about our research programs and directions, download this brochure: Research Directions in MS: Progress & Strategies (http://www.nationalmssociety.org/multimedia-library/brochures/general-information/download.aspx?id=34)

This document lists, sorted by state and country, all current MS research projects being funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (USA) as of April 1, 2013.

About Our Research Projects

The types of awards are indicated for each project:

Research Grant – full grants for basic, clinical and rehabilitation research;
Fast Forward Merck-Serono Fund – Through FAST FORWARD, the Society has a 5-year strategic alliance with EMD Serono/Merck KGaA to speed drug development through the MS pipeline. This partnership releases requests for proposals on specific topics each year, and supports both commercially oriented academic programs and early stage biotechnology companies.
Fast Forward General Fund – The Society's FAST FORWARD General Fund supports proposals on strategic topics. For 2013, General Fund partnerships aim at strategies for addressing progressive MS and approaches to protecting the nervous system from damage (neuroprotection) and ways to repair the nervous system to restore function.
Strategic Initiative - special projects that focus on core resources or other important unmet research needs;
Collaborative MS Research Center Awards - five-year awards to help stimulate creativity and interaction among investigators working within and outside MS fields;
Career Transition Fellowships – awards up to five years to facilitate the advancement of promising young investigators into full faculty positions;
Postdoctoral fellowships – research projects by young investigators, working under the mentorship of senior scientists, to provide training and experience in MS research;
Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships - young doctors working under the mentorship of seasoned clinicians, to provide training and experience in conducting clinical trials in people with MS;
Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarships – special five-year projects by promising young investigators just starting their careers as independent researchers;
NMSS/American Brain Foundation Clinician Scientist Development Award -- to train physicians in MS clinical research;
Mentor-based postdoctoral rehabilitation fellowships -- to enhance research into MS rehabilitation to improve quality of life;
Pilot Research Grants -- aimed at exploring new, untested ideas;
Health Care Delivery & Policy Contracts -- initiated by the Society and awarded on a competitive basis to investigators studying subjects identified as mission priorities.

You will find for selected projects an indication of restricted support that has been provided from individuals, groups, families, or chapters to underwrite the project. This is listed in italic typeface directly beneath the project title.

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ALABAMA

Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Collaborative MS Research Center

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $742,500
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2014

"Collaborative MS Center Award" Developing and evaluating novel immune system-modulating therapies for MS that can turn off immune attacks and protect nerve tissues.

Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $478,791
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Therapeutic Intervention of the JAK/STAT Pathway for Neuroinflammation"
Investigating how molecules in an immune system signaling pathway may be harnessed to treat MS.

Eric Chamot, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $80,960
Term: 6/1/2011-6/30/2013

"Unifying interpretation of clinical outcome measures of MS progression via IRT calibration" Developing methods to evaluate the impact of therapies intended to slow or prevent progression of MS.

Tara DeSilva, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $559,954
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Glutamatergic signaling in demyelination and remyelination in multiple sclerosis" Exploring how MS immune activity alters a brain chemical active during myelin damage and repair, for clues to stopping MS progression.

Victor Mark, M.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $701,261
Term: 10/1/2009-9/30/2013

"Rehabilitating extremity use after multiple sclerosis" Testing a new therapy to improve function in daily activities of people with progressive MS.

William Meador, M.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000 (Pending)
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Gordon Meares, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, AL
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $581,647
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

"LKB1 and AMPK Siganling in Neuroinflammation" Studying how cells in the brain and spinal cord may influence the immune system in MS, for clues to stopping immune attacks.

ARIZONA

Lynn Hudson, Ph.D.
Critical Path Institute
Tucson, AZ
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $3,000,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2016

"Qualifying Clinical Outcome Assessments through a Multiple Sclerosis Consortium (MSC)" Analyzing data from MS clinical trials to develop a more sensitive tool for evaluating the benefits of treatments on clinical symptoms and progression of MS.

ARKANSAS

Patricia Wight, Ph.D.
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Little Rock, AR
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $207,060
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Control of Human Myelin Proteolipid Protein Gene Expression during Development and Remyelination" Understanding how amounts of a protein present in myelin are regulated, for clues to stimulating myelin repair in MS.

Dean Wingerchuk, M.D.
Mayo Clinic Scottsdale
Scottsdale, AZ
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $549,520
Term: 10/1/2006-9/30/2013

"Aspirin for treatment of multiple sclerosis-related fatigue" Conducting a clinical trial of aspirin to improve fatigue in people with MS.

CALIFORNIA

Roger Olsson, Ph.D.
ACADIA Pharmacueticals Inc.
San Diego, CA
Award: Fast Forward - Merck Serono Fund

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $545,380
Term: 9/30/2012-9/30/2013

"Selective ERb Agonists for the Treatment of MS" Identifying a molecule that targets estrogen receptor beta as a potential treatment for MS.

Rashed Nagra, Ph.D.
Brentwood Biomedical Research Institute
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE, END
Funding: $1,268,602
Term: 11/1/2009-9/30/2014

"Human brain and spinal fluid resource center" Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Nikolaos Patsopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $102,324
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2013

"The role of common, low-frequency and rare variation in the etiology of MS." Identifying variations in genes that may be important in the risk of developing MS.

Nancy Sicotte, M.D.
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $254,081
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Tracking Hippocampal Subregional Atrophy in Multiple Sclerosis: Effect of Estriol Treatment" Using a novel MRI technique to evaluate the potential impacts of estriol treatment on the nervous system during a clinical trial in women with MS.

Nancy Sicotte, M.D.
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $506,341
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Differential hippocampal vulnerability as a mechanism for major depression in MS" Looking for the underlying cause of MS-related depression.

Megan Langille, M.D.
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

"MS Clinical Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Emma Masteller, Ph.D.
Five Prime Therapeutics, Inc.
South San Francisco, CA
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $1,000,000
Term: 5/18/2010-5/18/2013

"FPT069 for Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis: Targeting the Innate Immune System" Preclinical testing of an agent focused against innate immune activity in MS.

Brandon Beaber, M.D.
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000 (Pending)
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Annette Langer-Gould, M.D., Ph.D.
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
Pasadena, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $509,149
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Modifiable Risk Factors of Postpartum MS Relapses" Exploring factors that may affect the risk of an MS relapse after delivery of a child.

Ben Barres, M.D., Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $505,936
Term: 1/1/2013-12/31/2015

"How does the actin cytoskeleton control CNS myelination?" Basic exploration of how myelin is made, with the goal of finding ways to repair damaged myelin in people with MS.

Alexandra Goodyear, M.D.
Stanford University
Palo Alto, CA
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $130,000
Term: 8/1/2011-7/31/2013

"Development of an MS expert specializing in clinical trial design, management and analysis." Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Lawrence Steinman, M.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $510,975
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Pre-Clinical Studies on Predictive Serum Biomarker for Response to beta-interferon in Relapsing Remitting MS" Attempting to find a way to predict who will respond to treatment with interferon beta.

William Talbot, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $468,555
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Genetic mechanisms of CNS myelination" Identifying genes involved in the production of myelin to find new ways to repair damaged myelin in MS.

Ben Barres, M.D., Ph.D.
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $496,237
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Signaling mechanisms that control the blood-brain barrier" Determining how the protective barrier between the bloodstream and the brain and spinal cord breaks down in MS.

Barbara Ranscht, Ph.D.
The Burnham Institute
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $754,279
Term: 9/1/2011-9/30/2015

"Contactin functions in oligodendrocyte-mediated myelination and remyelination" Exploring a key molecule that influences the formation and repair of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to restoring myelin in MS.

Katerina Akassoglou, Ph.D.
The J. David Gladstone Institute
San Francisco, CA
Award: Fast Forward - Merck Serono Fund

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $375,975
Term: 6/20/2011-5/31/2013 (Est.)

"Small-molecule inhibitors of microglial activation" Develop and run a high throughput screen to identify small molecule inhibitors of fibrin (CD11b) mediated microglia activation

Jae Kyu Ryu, Ph.D.
The J. David Gladstone Institutes
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $169,083
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Study of spontaneous autoimmune demyelination induced by the blood protein fibrinogen." Studying a molecule that may trigger immune attacks that cause nerve tissue damage in MS.

Fred Gage, Ph.D.
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
La Jolla, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Development of a stem cell-based myelination assay" Developing a model for studying the capabilities of stem cells in the laboratory, to understand their use in repair strategies in MS.

Ye Zheng, Ph.D.
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $483,756
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Protective Role of REV-ERBs in EAE" Investigating how to turn off the activity of immune system cells that participate in the immune attacks involved in MS.

Jennifer Welser-Alves, Ph.D.
The Scripps Research Institute
La Jolla, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Role of the alpha6 beta4 integrin in astrocyte activation" Testing whether a molecule on brain cells may contribute to a process that hampers tissue repair.
Funded in part by the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund through the NMSS Mid-America Chapter

Joseph Cantor, Ph.D.
University of California San Diego
La Jolla, CA
Award: Research Grants

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $36,129.00
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Targeting integrin signaling in multiple sclerosis" Studying mechanisms that control the ability of immune cells to penetrate the brain, for insights into ways to refine therapies that target those mechanisms.

Farren Briggs, Ph.D.
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $135,448
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Detecting complex genetic environment interactions in multiple sclerosis"
Exploring how exposure to specific factors may interact with a person's genes to trigger MS.

Wenbin Deng, Ph.D.
University of California, Davis
Sacramento, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $310,019
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Application of the Modified-RNA Technology and iPS Cells for Remyelination"
Investigating the therapeutic potential of using cells derived from adult skin to repair nerve-insulating myelin damaged during the course of MS.

David Pleasure, M.D.
University of California, Davis
Sacramento, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $433,947
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Corticospinal tract degeneration in EAE: role of endolysosomal TLRs" Exploring the role of specific immune reactions in nerve fiber damage and testing ways to block them to protect the nervous system in MS.

Dritan Agalliu, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $465,478
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Understanding the role of Wnt/beta-catenin signaling pathway in repairing blood-brain barrier breakdown during multiple sclerosis." Investigating whether closing the blood-brain barrier can help treat EAE, a disease model similar to MS, and its implications for developing new treatments for MS.

Thomas Lane, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Collaborative MS Research Center

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $742,500
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2014

"Collaborative MS Center Award" A multifaceted effort to explore cell replacement strategies for repairing damage in MS.

Thomas Lane, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $592,266
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Human Neural Progenitor Cell-Mediated Therapy in a Viral Model of Demyelination" Investigating how transplanted adult stem cells may stimulate repair of myelin in a mouse of MS.

Sarah Lutz, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Wnt Signaling in Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis" Exploring ways to reduce the entry of destructive immune cells into the brain as a possible approach to stopping MS attacks.

Jason Weinger, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Mechanisms of allograft rejection of neural stem cells." Studying a unique method aimed at stimulating myelin repair in MS-like disease.

Pablo Paez, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
TRANSFER PENDING
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $471,291
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"Modulation of oligodendrocyte function and myelination by the golli proteins" Studying ways to enhance the manufacture and repair of myelin in an animal model of MS.

Eric Cheng, M.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $109,616
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2013

"The impact of cost-sharing among persons with multiple sclerosis" Calculating the amount of money paid out-of-pocket for health care by people with MS.

Barbara Giesser, M.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $560,819
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"Exercise as a strategy to treat cognitive dysfunction in persons with MS" Looking at how aerobic exercise may improve mental ability in people with MS.

Jason Hinman, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Transcriptional profiling of regionally distinct oligodendrocyte populations" Analyzing all the genes that are active in different regions of the brain and spinal cord to understand why certain regions are targeted in MS.

Yossan-Var Tan, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $554,317
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2014

"Identification and targeting of vip and pacap receptor subtypes in EAE" Finding ways to control the immune system attack in a model of MS.

Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $3,693,607
Term: 1/12/2007-1/11/2014

"A combination trial of Copaxone and Estriol in relapsing remitting MS" Testing the ability of the sex hormone estriol to slow disease course and activity in women with MS.

Funded in part by the NMSS Southern California & Nevada Chapter, South Central Region, NIH and other generous chapters and donors

Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $505,994
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Sex Chromosome Effects in the CNS during EAE" Looking at how genes on the chromosomes that determine gender may influence the severity of MS.

James Waschek, Ph.D.
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $652,196
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Neuropeptide PACAP/VPAC2 Receptor Signaling in the Regulation of Natural Treg Expansion in EAE" Investigating a messenger molecule that may control damage to the nervous system and may have potential as a target for future therapies aimed at stopping MS.

Angeliki Nikolakopoulou, Ph.D.
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"EphrinB/EphB interactions in Multiple Sclerosis" Exploring a molecule that may enhance the regeneration of damaged nerve cells in tissue samples from people with MS and an MS model.

Sergio Baranzini, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarship

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $699,836
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2014

"A systems approach to address biological heterogeneity and complexity in MS"
Evaluating the complex factors that cause MS to find new ways to treat it.

Jeffrey Bluestone, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $143,751
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"CD4+ FoxP3 lineage cells in CNS autoimmune disease and therapy" Looking for ways to use the immune system's regulatory mechanisms to stop immune attacks in MS.

Jonah Chan, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $680,625
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"Initiating myelination: a matter of membrane curvature" Using advanced technology to understand how myelin forms, for clues to its repair.

Jonah Chan, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarship

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $379,167
Term: 6/1/2010-6/30/2014

"Reconstructing microenvironments to control oligodendrocyte differentiation"
Looking for ways to encourage the growth of new myelin-forming cells to repair damage in MS.

Jennifer Graves, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2013

"Fellowship in clinical trials and research in multiple sclerosis." Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Shen-Yi Howng, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Understanding miRNA regulation of astrocyte function in myelination, demyelination, and remyelination." Studying brain cells that contribute to myelin formation and destruction in MS, for clues to reducing nervous system damage.

David Rowitch, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $359,868
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"APC gene function in oligodendrocyte development and myelin regeneration"
Studying the role of a gene that may be important for myelin repair in MS.

Emmanuelle Waubant, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $1,064,639
Term: 4/1/2007-10/1/2013

"Neuroprotection with riluzole in patients with early MS" Clinical trial to determine if a drug approved for ALS can protect brain and spinal cord tissues in MS.

Emmanuelle Waubant, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $542,554
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Microbiomes in pediatric multiple sclerosis" Understanding the association between microbes in the digestive tract and the risk of developing MS in childhood.

Dirk Baumjohann, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"MicroRNA regulation of T follicular helper cells in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis" Understanding the function of immune cells in MS-like disease for clues to developing new treatments to stop MS.

Ari Green, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarship

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $771,772
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

"In vivo neuronal imaging after demyelinating injury to the visual pathway" Developing a technique to measure the health and injury of nerve cells, as a potential tool for quickly evaluating the potential of therapies to protect the nervous system in MS.

Sabeen Lulu, M.B.B.S.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Sylvia Lawry Physician Clinical Fellowship" Training in how to design and conduct clinical trials to find better treatments for people with MS.

Ulf Schulze-Topphoff, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Role of B cells in central nervous system autoimmune disease" Studying the extent that immune system cells known as B cells influence immune attacks that damage the nervous system in MS, for clues to improving therapy.

Michel Varrin-Doyer, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"AQP4-specific T cells in NMO" Investigating how immune system cells are activated in a disease with some features similar to MS.

H.-Christian von Büdingen, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $485,808
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Characteristics of disease-relevant B cell repertoires in MS" Examining the relationship between B cells in the blood and those in the brain to improve MS diagnosis and therapy.

Tracy Yuen, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"The regulation of oligodendrocyte precursor remyelination by glucocorticoids and the Wnt pathway" Studying how glucocorticoids, steroid-like drugs often used to treat acute MS attacks, may influence the repair of myelin.

Scott Zamvil, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $614,600
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Aquaporin-4 (AQP4)-specific T cells in CNS autoimmunity" Distinguishing immune responses in MS and neuromyelitis optica.

William Stohl, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $547,896
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"The role of the BAFF axis in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis" Studying the potential for a new treatment approach for MS by altering a molecule that influences immune system cells.

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.
Universtiy of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE, END
Funding: $1,560,377
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

"Establishment of a Core DNA Repository for Multiple Sclerosis" Banking genetic material from individuals and families with MS as a shared resource for studies searching for genes that confer susceptibility to MS.

COLORADO

Thorsten Rudroff, Ph.D.
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Glucose uptake in response to walking in patients with multiple sclerosis" Identifying what leg muscles are not functioning well during walking in people with MS.

Jordan Jacobelli, Ph.D.
National Jewish Hospital and Research Center
Denver, CO
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"Targeting the actin-myosin cytoskeleton to selectively inhibit lymphocyte trafficking to the central nervous system in multiple sclerosis." Testing a way to inhibit the infiltration of immune cells into the brain and spinal cord in MS.

Linda Watkins, Ph.D.
University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, CO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $379,353
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"XT-101 for Treatment of MS-Related Symptoms" Investigating a new delivery method for an immune system molecule that could slow or stop MS attacks.

Jacob Hines, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $169,946
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Activity-dependent regulation of oligodendrocyte gene expression and myelination" Studying signals that control the growth of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to finding a way to repair myelin to restore function in MS.

Wendy Macklin, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Collaborative MS Research Center

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $742,500
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2017

"Mechanisms of glial injury in demyelinating disorders" Exploring brain cell interactions to shed new light on how damage occurs in MS and how to reverse the process to restore function to people with MS.

Wendy Macklin, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Aurora, CO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $617,036
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Role of integrin linked kinase in CNS myelination" Investigating a protein that may help steer myelin repair cells to areas of damage, which may have important implications for efforts to repair the nervous system in MS.

Danielle Harlow, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver - Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, CO
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Chemotropic molecules in oligodendrocyte precursor migration." Looking for clues to enhancing myelin regeneration in MS by naturally occurring repair cells in the brain.

Jeffrey Hebert, P.T., Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver - Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, CO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $536,295
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"C - Vestibular rehabilitation for persons with multiple sclerosis: who benefits the most?" The potential of balance and eye movement training for improving mobility in people with MS.

John Corboy, M.D.
University of Colorado Health Science Center
Aurora, CO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE, END
Funding: $825,973
Term: 11/1/2009-3/31/2014

"Rocky Mountain MS Center Tissue Bank" Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

CONNECTICUT

Akiko Nishiyama, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Connecticut
Storrs Mansfield, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $103,125
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Promoting remyelination from endogenous NG2 cells" Looking for ways to enhance repair of damaged myelin in an animal model of MS.

Stefan Brocke, M.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $612,252
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"The role of PDE8 in EAE" Investigating a new way to potentially prevent the immune system attack that damages the nervous system in a model of MS.

Robert Clark, M.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $650,846
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Novel bactertial lipids of commensal organisms promote EAE" Looking at how lipids from bacteria that live in humans might trigger the immune system to attack myelin in MS.

Joel Pachter, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $407,637
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Resolving the roles for astrocyte- and endothelial cell-derived CCL2 during evolution of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis" Understanding the functions of a molecule and its potential as a target for therapy in progressive MS.

Joel Pachter, Ph.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $504,497
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Choroid plexus and autoimmune demyelination" Investigating the earliest stages of the immune attack for clues to preventing them in MS.

Nada Zecevic, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $335,723
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Development of oligodendrocytes in the human brain: relevance for MS"
Studying the growth processes of cells that make nerve-insulating myelin for clues to what goes wrong in MS.

Jeffery Kocsis, Ph.D.

Yale University
West Haven, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $614,593
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2016

"Transplantation of OPCs into the demyelinated spinal cord" Evaluating the transplantation of myelin-producing cells to repair damaged myelin in an animal model, for clues to the possible safety and benefit in people with MS.

Siobhan Ni Choileain, Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, CT
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Gene and protein expression signature of Th1-Tregs and their role in MS" Looking at the role of immune T cells in MS inflammation and studying ways to modulate it to treat MS.

Christina Azevedo, M.D.

Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2013

"Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

David Hafler, M.D.

Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: Collaborative MS Research Center

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $742,500
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2014

"Collaborative MS Research Center Award" Applying novel technologies to understand how newly identified MS risk genes alter biological mechanisms that lead to susceptibility to the disease.

David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $459,905
Term: 12/1/2012-11/30/2015

"Iron as biomarker for inflammatory activity in MS lesions" Investigating the use of an advanced MRI technique to measure immune system activity in MS lesions.

David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $43,982
Term: 12/1/2012-11/30/2013

"Cortical demyelination leads to toxic accumulation of myelin debris in neurons." Investigating whether debris from damage caused by the immune attack causes further damage to nerve cells during the course of MS.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Katherine Conant, M.D.
Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, D.C.
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $447,349
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2013

"MMP-7, IgCAMs, and synaptic injury in multiple sclerosis" Pinpointing the mechanism whereby a natural enzyme could cause nerve damage in MS.
Funded in part by the National MS Society's South Central Region

Michael Halpern, M.D., Ph.D.
RTI International
Washington, D.C.
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $376,772
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"'Analysis of MS Physician Workforce'" Understanding issues that discourage doctors from becoming MS neurologists and identifying possible solutions.

Li-Jin Chew, Ph.D.
The Children's National Medical Center
Washington, D.C.
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $384,918
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"Mechanisms of inhibition of oligodendrocyte differentiation by interferon gamma" Exploring signals that may inhibit tissue repair in MS and ways to overcome them.

Vittorio Gallo, Ph.D.
The Children's National Medical Center
Washington, D.C.
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $537,577
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Role of Endothelin-1 in reactive gliosis and remyelination" Exploring a signaling molecule that may be key to improving myelin repair in MS.

Vittorio Gallo, Ph.D.
The Children's National Medical Center
Washington, D.C.
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $672,838
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Role of Sox17 in developmental myelination and remyelination" Investigating a protein that helps regulate the activity of myelin forming cells and its role in nervous system repair.

FLORIDA

Jacob McCauley, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Miami, FL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $641,141
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Exploring Multiple Sclerosis Genetics in Hispanics" Looking for genes that make people susceptible to developing MS in individuals of the U.S. Hispanic population.

Melissa Ortega, M.D.
University of Miami
Miami, FL
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $544,750
Term: 9/28/2012-9/28/2015

"A Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of Axona for Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis" Clinical trial to determine if Axona, a medical food, can protect cognitive function in people with MS.

GEORGIA

Jennifer Blanchfield, Ph.D.
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $169,946
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"CD4+ T cell affinities to MOG and NFM self antigens determine the course of chronic, demyelinating autoimmune disease" Understanding how specific immune T cells drive progression of MS symptoms by studying an MS model.

Brian Evavold, Ph.D.
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $442,897
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"T cell affinity for myelin controls autoimmune disease severity and outcome" Using high-tech screening to study how the cells that control immune system activity respond to myelin, the nerve-protecting sheath targeted by MS immune attacks.

Abiodun Akinwuntan, P.T., Ph.D.
Georgia Health Sciences University
Augusta, GA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $359,569
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Assessment and rehabilitaion of fitness-to-drive in individual with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)" Evaluating ways to measure and improve the driving ability of people with MS.

IOWA

Stanley Perlman, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Infectious Triggers
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $108,281
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Pathogenesis of Demyelination in Mice Infected with a Neurotropic Coronavirus" Looking for a way to specifically control immune system attacks against myelin in a viral disease similar to MS, for clues to stopping MS and ending it forever.

Stanley Perlman, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Infectious Triggers
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $435,827
Term: 7/1/2009-12/31/2013

"Pathogenesis of MHV-induced demyelination in wild type and RAG1-/- mice" Manipulating immune cells that may turn off immune attacks against brain tissues launched by a viral infection, for insights to new treatment approaches for MS.

Joshua Weiner, Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $43,945
Term: 9/1/2012-8/31/2013

"A role for the gamma-protocadherin gene family in neuro-immune interactions during experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis" Studying newly identified proteins that may allow immune cells to enter the brain during the immune attack in MS, and possible ways to stop them.

ILLINOIS

Pavan Bhargava, M.B.B.S., M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Springfield, IL
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2015

"Clinical research fellowship in Neuroimmunology" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Melissa Brown, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $560,802
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Meningeal mast cells as orchestrators of inflammation in EAE" Identifying new targets for MS therapy that prevent immune cells from gaining access to the central nervous system.

Deyu Fang, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $99,999
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"USP47 is a novel therapeutic target of multiple sclerosis" Studying a new target to reduce disease development and allow natural repair systems to work in MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Christopher Harp, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $143,223
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"B cell depletion therapy in the treatment of relapsing EAE." Studying a mouse model of MS to improve the safety of a potential MS treatment.

Byung Kim, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Infectious Triggers
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $485,904
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Pathogenic mechanisms of virus-induced demyelinating disease" Studying how viruses can trigger immune attacks against nerve tissue to understand how a virus might trigger MS.

Stephen Miller, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $156,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Immunoregulation and Pathology of Chronic-Relapsing EAE" Improving MS therapies by more precisely targeting the parts of the immune system that are involved in MS attacks on the nervous system.

Stephen Miller, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $545,738
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Mechanisms of Th1/Th17 regulation by B7-H4 Ig for the treatment of EAE"
Understanding how immune system activity is regulated in MS, for clues to developing better treatments that specifically prevent damage to nerve-insulating myelin.

Roumen Balabanov, M.D.
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $557,137
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Role of IRF-1 in oligodendrocytes" Looking for ways to protect the cells that make nerve-protecting myelin from damage in MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Malabendu Jana, Ph.D.
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $226,875
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2013

"Regulation of Lingo-1 by PPAR-beta" Exploring whether a cholesterol-lowering drug can stimulate mechanisms that lead to the repair of myelin, the nerve insulation that is damaged by MS.
Paid in part by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Brian Popko, Ph.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $594,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"The DTA oligodendrocyte ablation model in the study of inflammatory demyelination" Using a newly developed model to uncover clues to factors that trigger myelin damage in MS.

Brian Popko, Ph.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Development and characterization of fluorinated 4-aminopyridine analogs for therapy and PET imaging in multiple sclerosis" Developing new drugs to improve walking in people with MS and for use in imaging studies.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Anthony Reder, M.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $845,350
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015

"Interferon resistance in MS" Evaluating how immune system signals may serve as biomarkers of future disease activity.

Sara Szuchet, Ph.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"CNS myelin membranes are preformed as tubular structures that transition into multilayer vesicles and/or planar membranes within oligodendrocyte processes to be deposited on axons in a seemingly stochastic mode" Understanding how myelin, which is attacked by the immune system in MS, is normally made to lead to new ways to repair myelin and restore function in people with MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Wen-Hsuan Way, Ph.D.
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"The protective role of the integrated stress response (ISR) on oligodendrocytes during inflammatory demyelination" Studying a natural tissue response to damage and how it might be improved to stimulate repair of nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

Douglas Feinstein, Ph.D.
University of Illinois
Chicago, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Targeting CRMP2 for treatment of MS" Investigating a possible new therapy to slow nerve damage and enhance nerve growth and myelin repair, to help restore function in people MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Bo Fernhall, Ph.D.
University of Illinois
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $685,183
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"C - Exercise, Subclinical Atherosclerosis and Walking Mobility in Multiple Sclerosis" Evaluating a home-based exercise program with the potential to improve mobility and cardiovascular health in people with MS.

Alexander Aruin, D.Sc., Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $405,990
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

"Rehabilitation research training to enhance functional performance in MS" Training young scientists to conduct research in rehabilitation approaches to help people with MS achieve higher quality of life and maximal function.

Alexander Aruin, D.Sc., Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,001
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Anticipatory postural control in individuals with multiple sclerosis" Investigating a method for improving balance control in people with MS.

Ernesto Bongarzone, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"Role of molecular chaperones in multiple sclerosis" Investigating whether certain proteins are abnormal in myelin-making cells in people with MS, for clues to developing myelin repair strategies.

Douglas Feinstein, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $450,582
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Locus Coeruleus Damage in EAE and MS" Studying a new approach to treating MS by inhibiting damage to a region in the brain.

Marie Givogri, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $375,507
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Regulation of neurogliogenesis in health and multiple sclerosis by sulfatides"
Studying molecules that limit myelin repair and looking for ways to improve myelin repair in MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $90,427
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Development and Evaluation of Cardiorespiratory and Muscular Fitness Testing Protocols in Persons with Multiple Sclerosis with Severe Disability" Developing ways to evaluate fitness in people with advanced disability from MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $41,643
Term: 1/1/2012-12/31/2013

"Internet intervention for increasing physical activity in MS" Examining an intervention delivered through the internet for increasing physical activity, mobility and quality of life in people with MS.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $625,025
Term: 4/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Project METS in MS: Multimodal exercise training stimulus in multiple sclerosis" Comparing the effectiveness of a comprehensive exercise regimen on mobility and other functions in people with advanced MS.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $655,670
Term: 10/1/2007-9/30/2013

"Do symptoms predict reduction of physical activity across time in MS?"
Understanding factors that may lead to reduced physical activity in persons with MS.

Ian Rice, O.T.R., Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $109,680
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Promoting Physical Activity through a Manual Wheelchair Propulsion Activity Intervention in Persons with Multiple Sclerosis" Promoting physical activity in people with MS who use powered wheelchairs by adding the use of manual wheelchairs.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Illinois Lottery Pilot

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $109,981
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Fall Risk Reduction in Multiple Sclerosis: Exercise versus Behavior Modification" Testing strategies to reduce falling in people with MS.
Paid by special funds provided by the Illinois Lottery

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $295,673
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Acute exercise, spasticity and functional outcomes in MS: differential effects of duration and intensity" Evaluating the effectiveness of various cycling regimens for reducing spasticity in people with MS.

INDIANA

Chang Kim, Ph.D.
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $483,437
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Impact of short chain fatty acids produced by gut commensal bacteria on pathogenesis of CNS inflammation" Looking at how molecules produced by bacteria in the intestines may influence immune system activity in the brain for clues to turning off immune attacks in MS.

KANSAS

Steven LeVine, Ph.D.
University of Kansas Medical Center
Research Institute, Inc.
Kansas City, KS
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $80,703
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2014

"Pathogenic implications of cerebrovascular changes in a cerebral model of multiple sclerosis" Investigating how changes in blood vessels may contribute to myelin damage in an MS model.

Steven LeVine, Ph.D.
University of Kansas Medical Center
Research Institute, Inc.
Kansas City, KS
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neuropharmacology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2014

"Do proton pump inhibitors lessen the activity of CNS demyelinating diseases?" Investigating whether a common heartburn treatment that also promotes immune suppression can lessen disease activity or progression in mouse models of MS.

LOUISIANA

Jesus Lovera, M.D., M.S.P.H.
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – N.O.
New Orleans, LA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropharmacology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $359,516
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2014

"Safety and Neuroprotective Effects of Polyphenon E in MS" Investigating a novel complementary therapy to slow or stop progressive nerve damage in MS.

MASSACHUSETTS

Sana Syed, M.D.
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, MA
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 8/1/2012-7/30/2013

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Ana Anderson, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $455,399
Term: 11/1/2009-4/30/2013

"Genetic control of effector and regulatory T cells in acute and progressive EAE" Investigating a new animal model that mimics MS more closely than other models.

Clare Baecher-Allan, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $518,466
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Mechanisms of Treg resistance in patients with multiple sclerosis" Looking for ways to restore the normal balance of the immune system to prevent it from attacking the nervous system in MS.

Rohit Bakshi, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brookline, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $389,511
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Magnetic resonance disease severity scale for MSs" Developing a scale of novel imaging technologies to more accurately measure damage to the nervous system in MS.

Riley Bove, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $177,960
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2015

"Investigation of the role of androgens in multiple sclerosis disease course" Do blood levels of the male sex hormone testosterone influence MS disease activity in men?

Robert Carruthers, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brookline, MA
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Multiple Sclerosis Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Tanuja Chitnis, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brookline, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $430,234
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Biomarkers and risk factors for disease progression in MS" Determining factors that may influence whether, and how rapidly, MS may develop and progress.

Philip De Jager, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarship

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $783,807
Term: 7/1/2008-6/30/2013

"Dissection of the CD58 pathway in multiple sclerosis" How does variation of a specific gene alter the immune system such to reduce the risk of developing MS, and can this lead to new therapies?

Katarzyna Karwacz, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Molecular mechanisms leading to generation of Tr1 cells and their function in EAE" Studying how interferon beta suppresses immune system activity for clues for more effective treatment of MS.

Samia Khoury, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 9/1/2012-8/31/2013

"Application of IgG-derived Tregitopes as immunomodulating agents in EAE" Investigating a novel molecule that may control inflammatory immune cells, for its potential to suppress MS.

Samia Khoury, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $472,771
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Regulation of EAE through the PDL1/PDL2 pathway" Studying signals in immune system cells that control the attack on nerve-insulating myelin, seeking ways to turn off the attack in MS.

Vijay Kuchroo, Ph.D., D.V.M.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $430,650
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Pathogenic and regulatory mechanisms in EAE" Finding ways to control the immune system attack on myelin, for clues to stopping nerve tissue damage in MS.

Scott Lovitch, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $162,481
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"The role of PD-1 in maintenance of peripheral tolerance and control of EAE." Studying how to manipulate a molecule to turn off immune system attacks in MS.

Lior Mayo, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Interaction between innate and adaptive immunity in CNS inflammation" How different components of the immune system work together to drive progression of MS, for clues to stopping it.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $622,531
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"A comprehensive analysis of the direct and indirect costs of multiple sclerosis" Documenting the complete costs of MS to individuals and society, providing much-needed statistics to aid advocacy for improved health care and quality of life.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $329,613
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"The impact of out of pocket health-related costs on people with MS and their families" A detailed analysis of what people with MS spend on out-of-pocket health care costs and how this affects care and quality of life.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $698,337
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Financial implications of informal (unpaid) caregiving" The economic impacts for family members who provide care to people with MS.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 8/1/2005-7/31/2013

"Analysis of mental health data from the Sonya Slifka Longitudinal Multiple Sclerosis study" Evaluating the prevalence of mood disorders in MS and factors that influence mental health and access to mental health care.

Sarah Minden, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 11/1/2012-10/31/2013

"Analysis of data from an adult day program for people with MS" Evaluating an outpatient wellness program to determine whether it improves mental and physical function in people with MS.

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $447,288
Term: 10/1/2009-9/30/2013

"Role of the transcription factor AHR in controlling Foxp3/Treg induction & EAE" Looking for ways to increase the activity of immune cells capable of turning off the immune attacks that underlie MS.

Howard Weiner, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $927,400
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Dr. John R. Richert Pilot Study on Risk Factors for MS Progression" Identifying factors that influence the course and progression of MS.
Funded by the National MS Society's Greater Delaware Valley Chapter.

Chuan Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Role of SGK1 in differentiation and maintenance of Th17 cells" Studying immune cells that attack the brain in MS and the potential role of dietary salt intake in their function.

Zongqi Xia, M.D., Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $54,473
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Exploring the function of the TNFRSF1A allele associated with multiple sclerosis" Studying how variations of a gene linked to susceptibility to MS may alter the immune system to increase risk of developing MS.

Sheng Xiao, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Characterization and chemical inhibition of RORgammat-dependent transcriptional network in Th17 cells" Understanding how one protein regulates the development of a newly described immune cell population, for clues to identifying small molecule treatments for MS that disrupt the function of this protein.

Ellen Bassuk, M.D.
Center for Social Innovation
Newton, MA
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $297,016
Term: 7/1/2009-7/31/2013

"Qualitative research in care giver abuse" Developing instruments for people with MS and their caregivers that will detect abuse by caregivers with the aim of better detecting and preventing this problem in people with MS.

Sze-Ling Ng, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Cambridge, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"A role for T cell receptors in the cytokine secretion profile of regulatory T cells" Studying how the activity of specific cells that prevent immune attacks can be enhanced as a potential therapy to stop MS.

Dimitry Ofengeim, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Targeting RIP1 kinase as a therapeutic target in MS to both reduce inflammation and attenuate oligodendrocyte degeneration." Early testing of a strategy to reduce inflammation and protect cells that make nerve-insulating myelin as a possible new therapeutic approach to treating MS.

Alberto Ascherio, M.D., M.P.H.
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $221,675
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"MS risk and progression: role of vitamin D, EBV, and smoking" Identifying modifiable factors that affect conversion and progression from a first neurological episode (CIS) to MS.

Jack Strominger, M.D.
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $466,814
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Targeting the J5 peptide 15mer to dendritic cells for therapy of demyelinating diseases" Investigating a substance related to Copaxone that may improve treatment of MS.

Eric Klawiter, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $43,064
Term: 9/1/2012-8/31/2013

"Exploring the Human Connectome of Multiple Sclerosis" Examining the structure of nerve fibers, for clues to developing markers for cognitive dysfunction in MS.

Caterina Mainero, M.D., Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Charlestown, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $705,149
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Cortical Inflammation and Demyelination in Multiple Sclerosis by Combined PET and MRI" Developing better ways to visualize nervous system damage in people with secondary-progressive MS.

Caterina Mainero, M.D., Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Charlestown, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $705,533
Term: 10/1/2009-9/30/2013

"Cortical pathology and its correlates in multiple sclerosis by ultra-high field MRI" Using a powerful MRI machine to study damage in MS that is invisible to ordinary MRI machines.

Krystyn Van Vliet, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $562,773
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Do the mechanical properties of MS lesions influence the extent of remyelination?" Investigating how the stiffness of areas of tissue damage may impede the repair of nerve-insulating myelin repair.

Koichi Kobayashi, M.D., Ph.D.
Texas A&M University
Boston, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $28,270
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"The role of NLR-mediated microbiota regulation in the pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis" Looking at how immune system responses to bacteria in the intestines may influence EAE, an animal model of MS.

Carla Brodley, Ph.D.
Tufts University
Medford, MA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $36,301
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2014

"Applying Machine Learning and Data Mining to Understand the Heterogeneity of Disease Progression in MS Patients" Using novel techniques to mine data from an ongoing study of 1850 people with MS, for clues to understanding disease progression.

MARYLAND

Eric Eastman, Ph.D.
DioGenix, Inc.
Rockville, MD
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $479,000
Term: 9/7/2012-12/7/2013

"To develop a blood-based diagnostic test for MS" Using a novel approach to develop a blood-based MS diagnostic test.

Regina Armstrong, Ph.D.
Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $577,597
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Enhancing neural stem cell activation to improve remyelination capacity and axon integrityfollowing chronic demyelination" Testing a strategy to repair damage that occurs in the nervous system of people with MS to possibly restore function.

Amit Agarwal, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $156,515
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Glutamatergic signaling between axons and glial progenitors in health and disease." Deciphering biological interactions and signals that may stimulate myelin repair in MS.

Peter Calabresi, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Collaborative MS Research Center

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $825,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

"Factors Regulating Oligodendrogliogenesis and Myelination in Multiple Sclerosis and Animal Models" Collaborators from different fields identifying factors that help to increase myelin-making cells, and using this knowledge to develop myelin repair strategies.
2011 Stephen C. Reingold Research Award for most outstanding research proposal

Adam Kaplin, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $615,298
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Modulation of Glutamate CarboxyPeptidase II activity to treat cognitive impairment in Multiple Sclerosis" The potential of specific molecules as possible therapies for treating cognitive problems in MS.

Ellen Mowry, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $43,960
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"The utility of screening for urinary tract infection at the time of presumed multiple sclerosis relapse" Investigating how often people with MS who present with possible relapses actually have urinary tract infections.

Ellen Mowry, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $1,312,902
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"A randomized controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation in multiple sclerosis" A clinical trial investigating whether vitamin D supplements can alter disease activity in people with MS who are taking a standard therapy.
Funded in part by a gift from the National MS Society Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Arun Venkatesan, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neuropharmacology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Microfluidics to identify novel axon protective therapies" Developing new strategies to protect axons from degeneration in MS, utilizing cutting edge bio-engineering techniques.

Katharine Whartenby, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $523,971
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Inhibition of FLT3 signal trasduction in APCs as an approach to MS therapy."
Evaluating a way to stop MS attacks by blocking specialized cells that make nervous system tissues a target.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Katharine Whartenby, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $654,729
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"The role of KLF4 in transcriptional activation of IL-17 and induction of EAE"
Determining the molecular switches that convert beneficial immune responses into harmful ones such as those involved in MS.

Walter Royal, III, M.D.
Maryland Center for Multiple Sclerosis Treatment and Research
Baltimore, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $44,000 (Pending)
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"A Model of Cigarette Smoking in EAE" Studying whether MS-like disease in mice can be made worse by exposing the mice to cigarette smoke.

Scott Durum, Ph.D.
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health
Frederick, MD
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"IL-7 receptor polymorphisms in MS: Mechanism and therapeutic implications" Testing whether inhibitors of the immune messenger protein interelukin-7 can stop the immune attack in MS models.

Kathleen Zackowski, Ph.D.
The Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $619,577
Term: 9/30/2011-9/29/2015

"Predicting intervention responsiveness to improve rehabilitation in people with multiple sclerosis" Determining whether it is possible to predict the usefulness of exercise interventions in people with MS.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Christopher Bever, M.D.
University of Maryland
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $495,000
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"Combination therapy with interferon beta and brain derived neurotropic factor in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis" Studying an experimental combination therapy for its ability to slow or halt long-term nerve damage in an animal model of MS.

Jason Lees, Ph.D.
University of Maryland at Baltimore
Baltimore, MD
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $268,236
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Molecular mechanisms of secondary T-cell recruitment to established CNS lesions" Determining how the population of immune system attack cells changes from early to later stages of MS-like disease for clues to new treatment approaches.

MICHIGAN

Shailendra Giri, Ph.D.
Henry Ford Health Sciences Center
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $571,109
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Preclinical evaluation of combination therapy using metformin with conventional MS therapies" Investigating, through preclinical testing, whether metformin, an oral treatment for diabetes, has potential for turning off immune attacks in MS.

Stephen Lalor, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $169,946
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Investigating the trafficking behavior of encephalitogenic Th17 cells prior to entering the CNS in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis and multiple sclerosis" Understanding how immune system cells acquire the ability to damage nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

Yasmina Laouar, Ph.D.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $435,049
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Role of TGFbeta in the control of autoimmune encephalomyelitis" Studying a molecule used as a signal that can inhibit immune attacks, and its implications for finding ways to stop MS.

Joyce Benjamins, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"Ubiquitin D/FAT10: A New Signal for Neuronal Responses to Neuroinflammation" Investigating a protein that plays a role in the development and survival of nerve cells, for clues to protecting these cells in MS.

Paula Dore-Duffy, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $43,683
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Human fat stem cell population in cell replacement therapy in MS." Testing stem cells derived from adult fat cells in a model of MS to determine their potential use in repair strategies.

Alexander Gow, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $635,358
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2013

"Non-Immune models of neurodegeneration" Investigating the cells that make nerve-insulating myelin and factors that may impede the normal repair of myelin during the course of MS.

Alexander Gow, Ph.D.
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $775,675
Term: 4/1/2012-3/31/2015

"Akt signaling in stressed oligodendrocytes" Investigating factors that lead to the destruction of myelin-making cells, for clues to inducing repair.

MINNISOTA

Claudia Lucchinetti, M.D.
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Rochester, MN
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE, END
Funding: $1,200,000
Term: 4/1/2005-6/30/2013

"Multiple Sclerosis Lesion Project" Studying damaged areas in the brains of individuals with MS for clues to different patterns of destructive immune factors, and correlating findings with clinical manifestations.

Moses Rodriguez, M.D.
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Rochester, MN
Award: Collaborative MS Research Center

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $742,500
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2014

"Collaborative MS Center Award" Exploring the molecular signals that might stimulate or inhibit repair processes in MS, for clues to developing therapeutic strategies to promote repair.

William Schmalstieg, M.D.
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine
Rochester, MN
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,920
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Role of dysregulated ionic homeostasis in CD8+ T cell mediated axon injury." Investigating a novel approach to preventing nerve fiber damage in MS.

Bing Li, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $395,523
Term: 9/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Regulation of T cell subset differentiation by E-FABP" Finding how a molecule that influences T cells to attack myelin works, for clues to suppressing the immune attack in MS.

Wensheng Lin, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $572,022
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Endoplasmic reticulum stress in immune-mediated demyelinating diseases" Researching strategies to protect the nervous system and increase repair in MS to restore function.

Wensheng Lin, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $13,547
Term: 11/30/2012-11/30/2013

"The role of the PERK-elFalpha pathway in MS/EAE" Investigating the possible protective role of an immune messenger protein in MS.

MISSISSIPPI

Robert Buchanan, Ph.D.
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $117,259
Term: 8/16/2005-6/30/2013

"The long-term care needs of people with multiple sclerosis" Exploring the long-term care needs of people with MS and the services they receive in care facilities.

Robert Buchanan, Ph.D.
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $437,479
Term: 11/1/2009-12/31/2014

"Study of children and teens whose parents have multiple sclerosis" Evaluating factors that affect the quality of life of children of parents who have MS.

MISSOURI

Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D.
St. Louis University
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $412,500
Term: 9/1/2010-8/31/2013

"The novel RhoGAP/Hop/Net tolerance-inducing pathway in myelin specific T cells" Exploring factors that contribute to the repeated immune attacks in MS in search of opportunities for interfering with these attacks to stop MS.

Joanne Wagner, P.T., Ph.D.
St. Louis University
St. Louis, MO
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $43,687 (Pending)
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Neuropathogenesis of impairments in bilateral coordination of gait in persons with multiple sclerosis" Examining how injury in specific parts of the spinal cord contributes to mobility problems in people with MS.

Jared Bruce, Ph.D.
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Kansas City, MO
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $292,470
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2014

"Development of a Motivational Intervention to Improve Treatment Adherence in MS" A strategy to help people with MS re-start their MS medication if they have stopped

Enrique Alvarez, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Sylvia Lawry Physician Clinical Fellowship" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in multiple sclerosis.
Funded by the National MS Society's Gateway Area Chapter

Marina Cella, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $330,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2014

"The role of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in T-cell mediated autoimmunity in the central nervous system" Studying the role of a type of immune cell in MS, for clues to stopping MS in its tracks.

Anne Cross, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $529,560
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Gradient Echo Plural Contrast Imaging to Better Understand MS" Evaluating the potential of a new MRI technique as a more sensitive measure of MS disease activity.

Robyn Klein, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $460,638
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Regulation of blood-brain barrier immune privilege during CNS autoimmunity" Looking for ways to prevent breakdown of the barrier that separates the brain and spinal cord from the bloodstream, for clues to stopping the development of MS.

Robyn Klein, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $557,305
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Cytokine control of homeostatic chemokines within during CNS autoimmunity" Exploring the roles of immune messengers that can rev up and attract immune activity to specific areas of the brain in MS-like disease.

Erin Longbrake, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, MO
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Clinical and Translational Research Training in Multiple Sclerosis" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Robert Naismith, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $437,393
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Quantitative imaging of tissue recovery, repair, and clinical outcomes in multiple sclerosis" Applying advanced imaging techniques to evaluate nerve tissue injury and repair for measure the ability of new therapies to restore function in MS.

Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholarship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $566,393
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2015

"Role of TREM-2 in multiple sclerosis and its animal model" Examining the role played by a molecule on immune cells and implications for developing a new therapy for MS.
Funded by the National MS Society's Gateway Area Chapter

John Russell, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $489,697
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Cytokine and chemokine regulation of regional CNS inflammation and pathogenesis" Analyzing interactions between immune messenger chemicals in directing the location of immune attacks in the nervous system, for clues to causes of MS severity and symptoms.

Sheng-Kwei Song, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $485,100
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Noninvasive quantification of axon injury in EAE and MS" Testing a new imaging technique for its ability to provide a window to disease activity, damage and treatment in people with MS.

William Spees, Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Biochem./Biophysics
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 9/1/2012-8/31/2013

"Detecting Optic Nerve Dysfunction in EAE Mice" Determining whether imaging techniques can be used toevaluate MS progression by assessing optic nerve function in mice with an MS-like disease.

Gregory Van Stavern, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Functional connectivity in patients with clinically isolated optic neuritis" Studying how the visual pathways in the brain respond to damage in people at high risk for MS, for clues to predicting disease progression.

Gregory Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Characterization of Dendritic Cell Precursors During Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis" Studying cells that may amplify the immune attack in MS-like disease for clues to inhibiting them and stopping the attack in its tracks.

NORTH CAROLINA

Chunlei Liu, Ph.D.
Duke University
Durham, NC
Award: Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $425,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2015

"Improving the Diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis with In Vivo MR Imaging of Myelin and Iron" Developing better brain imaging techniques to improve early diagnosis and detect progression of MS.

Mari Shinohara, Ph.D.
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $538,553
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Study on innate immune inflammation that enhances EAE" Studying immune inflammation in a model of MS for insights into stopping progression of MS.

Wei-Chun Chou, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $169,946
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Role of inflammasome in neuro-inflammation disease" Investigating a possible trigger for immune attacks on the brain and spinal cord, for clues to stopping MS activity.

Silva Markovic-Plese, M.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $100,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"The Role of IL-11+CD4+ T-cells in the Development of the Autoimmune Response in MS" Identifying immune cells and messenger chemicals that may help launch immune attacks in MS.

Glenn Matsushima, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $527,262
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Enhancing oligodendrocyte survival" Exploring a therapeutic strategy for improving survival of cells that are needed to repair nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

Jenny Ting, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $526,789
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"The roles of new innate immune mediators in neuroinflammation" Studying new ways to prevent the immune system from attacking myelin in animal models of MS.

Yisong Wan, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $557,255
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Therapeutic effect of dihydro-artemisinin on MS through suppressing immune response" Determining the potential of an ancient herbal medicine for reducing immune attacks in a model of MS, as a prelude to testing it in people with MS.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Heather Wishart, Ph.D.
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Lebanon, NH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $116,031
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"Imaging genetics in MS: A study of cognitive outcomes." Applying advanced research techniques to predict the course of MS.

Lloyd Kasper, M.D.
Trustees of Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $719,852
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2016

"Regulation of immunity by gut commensal bacteria in multiple sclerosis"
Looking at whether a molecule produced by common bacteria in the intestines may hold promise for treating MS or provide clues to how MS is triggered.
Paid by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Heather Wishart, Ph.D.
Trustees of Dartmouth College
Lebanon, NH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $315,248
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Imaging the neural basis of pain in patients with MS" Using advanced MRI analysis to determine how the brain regions associated with pain are affected by MS.

NEW JERSEY

Hidehisa Asada, Ph.D.
Ezose Sciences Inc.
Pinebrook, NJ
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $390,000
Term: 9/28/2012-9/28/2014

"Discovery and Characterization of N-Glycan Changes Associated with Multiple Sclerosis: Using Glycomics to Identify and Develop New Biomarkers for Determining Disease Status and Evaluating Response to Therapy" Searching for novel biomarkers that might be useful as signposts for diagnosing MS and also for determining disease subtypes.

Nancy Chiaravalloti, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $43,494
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Stylistic memory enhancement" Investigating a new treatment protocol for learning and memory deficits in people with MS.

Nancy Chiaravalloti, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $62,519
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2013

"Applying speed of processing training (SPT) to individuals with MS" Testing the ability of a technique for improving cognition in people with MS.

John DeLuca, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $382,865
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2017

"MS Fellowship in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation" Training postdoctoral fellows for success in careers dedicated to research in cognitive rehabilitation to improve the lives of people with MS.

Helen Genova, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $43,539
Term: 9/30/2011-10/1/2013

"A longitudinal analysis of cognitive impairment and white matter damage in MS" Using a sensitive imaging technique to see how damage to nerve-insulating myelin affects learning and memory in people with MS.

Helen Genova, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Research Grant

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $344,180
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"Examination of cognitive fatigue in multiple sclerosis using fmri" Applying a sophisticated brain imaging technique to measure mental fatigue in people with MS.

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $619,618
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2018

"Resting State Functional Connectivity as a Predictor of Memory Decline in Multiple Sclerosis" Looking for a way to predict who will experience memory decline due to MS so that treatments to slow or prevent it can be started early.

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, NJ
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 11/1/2012-10/31/2013

"A Randomized Controlled Trial of Intellectual Enrichment to Build Cognitive Reserve in Multiple Sclerosis" Testing whether intellectually enriching activities delivered via an iPad can improve cognitive function and alter brain activity in people with MS.

Robert Ledeen, Ph.D.
UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
Newark, NJ
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $431,054
Term: 10/1/2009-9/30/2013

"Role of GM1 ganglioside and its cross-linking ligands in autoimmune suppression" Trying to develop a way to reduce the damage that occurs to nerve-protecting myelin in MS.

Cheryl Dreyfus, Ph.D.
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Piscataway, NJ
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $448,215
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"The role of glial cell-derived factors in a cuprizone model of MS" Investigating factors that enhance the repair activity of myelin-making cells, for clues to restoring function in people with MS.
Funded by the National MS Society's South Central Region

Teresa Wood, Ph.D.
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
Newark, NJ
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $872,517
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"The mTOR Pathway: A master regulator of oligodendrocyte differentiation"
Investigating how to make immature myelin forming cells form mature cells that manufacture new myelin to repair MS damage.

NEW YORK

Bridget Shafit-Zagardo, Ph.D.
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $587,268
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Strategies to enhance neuroprotection and repair in the inflamed CNS" Looking for ways to protect against nerve tissue damage in MS.

Diana Shineman, Ph.D.
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
New York, NY
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Neuropharmacology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $40,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Collaborative CNS Screening Initiative" Joining forces with the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation and Beyond Batten Disease Foundation to support a shared resource for discovering drugs active against nerve degeneration

Ralph Benedict, Ph.D.
Buffalo General Hospital
Buffalo, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $506,412
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2013

"Longitudinal Analysis of Regional Brain Atrophy and Personality Change in MS" Investigating changes in the brain that may lead to personality and behavior disorders in MS, and the impact of those disorders on disease course and quality of life.

Jonathan Cook, Ph.D.
Columbia University
New York, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 11/1/2012-10/31/2013

"Social Psychological Factors Affecting the Progression of MS" Examining whether concealment of MS influences health-promoting behaviors and disease progression.

Susan Gauthier, D.O.
Cornell University Medical College
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $623,985
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015

"Developing a quantitative imaging biomarker for remyelination in Multiple Sclerosis" Investigating a method of measuring myelin repair in people with MS, which may be useful for tracking repair during clinical trials.

Nataliya Ternopolska, M.D.
Cornell University Medical College
New York, NY
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Wendy Vargas, M.D.
Cornell University Medical College
New York, NY
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Marie Filbin, Ph.D.
Hunter College
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $607,270
Term: 10/15/2008-9/30/2013

"MAG inhibits migration and induces death of Schwann cells" Investigating factors that may limit the ability of cells to repair MS damage to myelin, and ways to overcome those limits.
Half of funding provided by MS Hope for a Cure to the NMSS New York City-Southern New York Chapter

Linnea Asp, Ph.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Requirement of Krüppel-like factor-6 for myelin formation and repair."
Understanding a gene that may be a new target to induce myelin repair in people with MS.

Rebecca Farber, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $195,000 (Pending)
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Fellowship Corinne Goldsmith Dickinson Center for Multiple Sclerosis at Mount Sinai School of Medicine" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Gareth John, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $82,500
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Reactive astrogliosis regulates blood-brain barrier permeability" Tracing events leading to the breakdown of the barrier that restricts immune cells from entering the brain, to find ways to minimize lesion formation and relapses in MS.

Ilana Katz Sand, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2013

"Fellowship in multiple sclerosis." Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Sylvia Klineova, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Sylvia Lawry MS Fellowship" Training in how to design and conduct clinical trials to find better treatments for people with MS.

Jia Liu, Ph.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Role of histone methylation in oligodendrocyte differentiation in development and remyelination in MS" Manipulating proteins to stimulate nervous system repair in MS.

Fred Lublin, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $189,974
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"CombiRx Bridge Grant" Funds to maintain clinical trial cohort.

James Weisfeld-Adams, M.D.
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Sequencing for mutations in genes associated with Mendelian neurometabolic disorders and non-autoimmune phenotypes in patients with primary progressive multiple sclerosis" Using targeted gene sequencing technologies to understand how individual genes are related to progressive forms of MS.

Laura Balcer, M.D.
New York University
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $1,100,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2016

"Mechanisms of retinal neurodegeneration and visual pathway axonal loss in MS" Scanning the eye for clues to understanding nervous system damage and to track repair in MS.

Yoko Bekku, Ph.D.
New York University
New York, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Mechanisms of node of Ranvier assembly" Looking at how the structure of nerve fibers is affected by myelin, with the goal of finding ways to enhance nerve signaling to restore nerve function in MS.

James Salzer, M.D., Ph.D.
New York University
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $489,027
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Assembly of CNS Nodes of Ranvier" Determining how the specialized nerve fiber regions that carry nerve signals develop, with the goal of preserving or restoring proper nerve signaling and function in MS.

Leslie Summers deLuca, Ph.D.
New York University
New York, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $163,503
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Regulation of central nervous system S1P production and the role of S1P signaling on Bergmann glia in an animal model of multiple sclerosis." Studying how an important signaling molecule contributes to immune system activity in MS, for clues to refining its therapeutic activity to better treat MS.

Yulin Ge, M.D.
New York University Medical Center
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $470,246
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Brain Oxygen Metabolism and Vascular Reactivity in MS: Assessing Neurodegeneration using MRI" Using recently developed MRI techniques to investigate possible causes of nervous system damage in MS.

Jack Rosenbluth, M.D.
New York University Medical Center
New York, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $103,125
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Role of the paranodal junction in myelinated nerve fibers." Looking at how alterations in myelin structure affect the behavior of nerve fibers.

Bianca Weinstock-Guttman, M.D.
State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $646,012
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Clinical, MRI, neuropsychological and gene-environmental risk factors for progression in MS" Identifying factors that influence the course and progression of MS.
Funded in part by the National MS Society's Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Holly Colognato, Ph.D.
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $565,739
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Adhesion-regulated signaling mechanisms during myelination and remyelination" Studying how immature cells are stimulated to form cells capable of repairing nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

Lauren Krupp, M.D.
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $628,313
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Plasticity-based, adaptive, computerized cognitive remediation treatment (PACR) for adults with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)" Evaluating a web-based program to help improve memory and learning in people with MS.

Javier Palazuelos, Ph.D.

Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $169,946
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"The role of TGF-beta signaling in oligodendrocyte development, myelination andremyelination" Exploring how a signaling molecule may influence repair of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to restoring function in people with MS.

Styliani (Stella) Tsirka, Ph.D.

Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"Modulation of T cell responses by microglia during experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE)" How signaling molecules released by brain cells may influence the activity of immune cells in an MS model and by implication, in MS.

Murali Ramanathan, Ph.D.

The Research Foundation of SUNY
Buffalo, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $704,784
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Lipoprotein and Lipid Metabolism in Multiple Sclerosis Disease Progression" Understanding the role of cholesterol and related substances to guide diet and lifestyle choices that will improve disease outcomes in people with MS.

Sara Qureshi, M.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
New York, NY
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000 (Pending)
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Matthew Bellizzi, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY
Award: NMSS-AAN Clinician Scientist Award

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $263,622
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Synaptic injury and neuroprotection in multiple sclerosis" Identifying processes that contribute to the loss of nerve function in MS, and seeking ways to protect the nervous system from damage.

Katia Noyes, PhD, MPH
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $444,991
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2013

"Evaluating nursing home and other long-term care in multiple sclerosis (ENHOLMS)" Nationwide analysis of long-term care services used by people with MS and the costs of these services for patients and providers.

Jessica Robb, M.D.
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Steven Goldman, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $580,285
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2013

"Progenitor cell-based myelination of the dysmyelinated central nervous system"
Testing the ability of transplanted cells to grow or repair nerve-insulating myelin in animal models as a prelude to cell transplantation in people with MS.
Funded in part by the National MS Society's South Central Region

Steven Goldman, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $851,630
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2015

"Molecular determinants of human glial progenitor cell-based remyelination"
Studying human myelin repair cells in action for clues to stimulating nervous system repair in MS.

OHIO

Robert Mays, Ph.D.
Athersys, Inc.
Cleveland, OH
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $640,000
Term: 10/1/2011-4/1/2014

"Investigation on the Safety and Utility of Human MultiStem® in Mouse Models of Multiple" Developing an adult stem cell platform for the treatment of MS, including progressive forms of the disease.

M. Edward Medof, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $540,201
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"Modifying effector and regulatory cells in EAE by controlling local complement"
Exploring a newly discovered aspect of immune activity that may lead to development of new strategies to stop immune attacks in MS.

Matthew Plow, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $589,585
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Evaluating the effects of physical activity and fatigue management strategies"
Developing methods for teleconferencing based
support to help people with MS manage fatigue and improve physical activity.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Richard Ransohoff, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $434,167
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Monocytes and microglia in EAE" Differentiating the role of specific brain cells that contribute to both nervous system damage and repair, for clues to stopping MS and restoring function.

Jacqueline Nicholas, M.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Sylvia Lawry Physician Clinical Fellowship" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Michael Racke, M.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $372,779
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

"Interferon-beta modulation of microRNA in Multiple Sclerosis" Investigating whether interferons alter activity of small segments of RNA, in search of new ways to stop the immune-system attacks and nervous system damage in MS.

Michael Racke, M.D.
Ohio State University
Columbus, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $468,954
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Regulation of oxidative stress in autoimmune demyelination" Investigating a molecule in clinical trials to understand its influence on immune factors and how it may provide protection to the nervous system in MS.

Francois Bethoux, M.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $274,868
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Impact of a hip flexion assist device on gait performance in multiple sclerosis patients" Evaluating a new device designed to aid walking in people with MS.
Paid in part by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Pallab Bhattacharyya, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $333,609
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Role of inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA in motor performance in MS" Studying how a molecule used by nerves to communicate with each other may contribute to physical disability in MS.

Jeffrey Cohen, M.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $32,696
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"Characterization of mesenchymal stem cells from healthy control donors"
Looking at how adult stem cells survive and function, as part of a larger study investigating their potential for treating MS.

Ranjan Dutta, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $319,317
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Identification of critical regulators of remyelination in MS brains" Looking for ways to stimulate brain cells that have potential to repair nerve-insulating myelin that has been damaged by MS.

Carrie Hersh, D.O.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Training in multiple sclerosis diagnosis, management, and clinical trials" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Mark Lowe, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $42,500
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Pilot study to assess hemodynamic factors affecting the BOLD fMRI response in Multiple Sclerosis" Assessing whether abnormalities in blood flow and metabolism in people with MS contribute to brain activity on MRI scans.

Deborah Miller, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $369,120
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2014

"INFORMS:Improving Neuro-QOL's Functionality for Outcomes Research in Multiple Sclerosis" Developing a way to assess MS symptoms with a standardized patient-reported questionnaire.

Daniel Ontaneda, M.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Sylvia Lawry Physician Clinical Fellowship" Developing the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in multiple sclerosis.

Stephen Rao, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $43,820
Term: 11/1/2012-10/31/2013

"Validation of an iPad App for Assessing Cognition in MS" Evaluating a test for detecting cognitive dysfunction in MS, administered using an iPad, in people with MS.

Alessandro Serra, M.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 8/1/2012-7/30/2013

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Stephen Stohlman, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $573,177
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"IFN-g dependent astrocyte regulation of CNS autoimmunity" The role of cells known as astrocytes in regulating immune activity and potential for nervous system repair in chronic progressive MS.

Bruce Trapp, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $226,044
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"Cellular and molecular mechanisms of cortical remyelination in MS"
Understanding why some sites of damage in the brain are repaired more readily than others during the course of MS.
2009 Stephen C. Reingold Award for highest ranked research proposal of the year

Bruce Trapp, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 9/1/2012-8/31/2013

"Cognition assessment and cortical MR imaging in a model of multiple sclerosis"
Combining a new type of imaging with behavioral analysis to investigate a tool to evaluate cognitive impairments in MS.

Anette van Boxel-Dezaire, Ph.D.
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, OH
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $562,312
Term: 7/1/2007-10/31/2013

"Altered cytokine signaling in multiple sclerosis" Determining how interferons influence immune cell activity in MS, for clues to better treatments

Michael Basso, Ph.D.
University of Tulsa
Tulsa, OK
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $39,873
Term: 2/1/2012-3/31/2014

"A manualized cognitive rehabiliation program for Multiple Sclerosis" Developing a standardized program to improve memory in people with MS.

OREGON

Cheng Fang, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $156,515
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Effects of inflammatory mediators on axonal transport in cultured neurons and in intact optic nerves" Exploring whether faulty transfer of proteins inside nerve cells contributes to their damage in MS.

Brett Fling, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Beaverton, OR
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $170,196
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"The neural characteristics of proprioceptive-related balance deficits in Multiple Sclerosis" Understanding factors that influence balance control in people with MS for clues to improving function.

Fay Horak, P.T., Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Beaverton, OR
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $407,466
Term: 7/1/2009-6/30/2014

"Rehabilitation research training in postural control of multiple sclerosis"
Developing a training program to enhance research into ways to use rehabilitation to improve balance and gait in people with MS.

Owen McCarty, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Development of WE-thrombin for the treatment of MS" Testing whether a novel compound can reduce MS-like disease in mice, for clues to developing it as a strategy to treat MS.

Larry Sherman, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Beaverton, OR
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $439,568
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Novel hyaluronidase inhibitors for the promotion of remyelination" Investigating a new avenue with potential to promote repair of myelin in MS.

Vijayshree Yadav, M.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $491,950
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Lipoic acid as a treatment for acute optic neuritis: a pilot trial" A clinical trial to determine whether an oral antioxidant can prevent nerve damage in people with optic neuritis, often the first symptom of MS.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Gil Benedek, Ph.D.
Veterans Administration Medical Center
Portland, OR
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,804
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"A Novel CD74-Dependet Mechanism for Suppressing Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis." Preventing harmful immune cells from entering the brain as a possible new strategy to treat MS.

Michelle Cameron, M.D., P.T.
Veterans Administration Medical Center
Portland, OR
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $42,000
Term: 6/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Methylphenidate to Improve Balance and Walking in Multiple Sclerosis"
Examining the effects of an inexpensive stimulant medication on balance and walking in people with MS.

PENNSYLVANIA

Judith Grinspan, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $567,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"A role for BMP in oxidative stress during demyelination" Investigating whether specific proteins that are released during nervous system damage may play a role in limiting natural myelin repair during the course of MS.

Sona Narula, M.D.
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000 (Pending)
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2014

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Elizabeth Blankenhorn, Ph.D.
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $540,528
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Refining the genetic basis of EAE in B6 mice to establish a model for MS-GWAS testing" Studies to clarify how specific MS susceptibility genes and gender influence MS.

Maria Schultheis, Ph.D.
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $461,690
Term: 10/1/2009-9/30/2013

"Examining the relationship between MS progression and driving" Evaluating driving ability in various stages of MS to improve safety and independence.

Peter Arnett, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $42,835
Term: 11/1/2012-10/31/2013

"Functional Brain Mechanisms Underlying Depression in MS" Investigating whether people with MS are more prone to depression because of structural damage to the brain.

Bogoljub Ciric, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"GM-CSF in CD8+ T cell-mediated EAE" Suppressing a specific immune-signaling molecule on a model of MS, for clues to targeting this molecule as a therapy in MS.

Salim Chahin, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $244,568
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"Retinal gray matter in MS: Relation of ganglion cell loss to vision and neurologic impairment" Measuring changes and damage to the optic nerve to develop a method for evaluating neuroprotective treatments in MS.

Youhai Chen, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $576,675
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Regulation of autoimmune encephalomyelitis" Studying the action of a `master switch` that controls immune system activity in MS.

Steven Scherer, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $531,792
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Essential roles of gap junction proteins in oligodendrocytes" Studying cell components that may be important for maintaining myelin in MS-like disease.

Sharyl Fyffe-Maricich, Ph.D.
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA
Award: Career Transition Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $412,500
Term: 7/1/2012-12/31/2015

"ERK MAP kinase regulation of oligodendrocyte differentiation and remyelination in the CNS" Investigating how protein signals influence the repair of nerve-insulating myelin in the brain and spinal cord.

RHODE ISLAND

Albert Lo, M.D., Ph.D.
Brown University
Providence, RI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $713,735
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2013

"Multiple sclerosis:prevalence & social functioning by disease duration & subtype" A comprehensive study of the impact of MS on employment, interpersonal relations and daily living.

TENNESSEE

Hongbo Chi, Ph.D.
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Memphis, TN
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $660,000
Term: 11/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Innate immune signaling in TH17 differentiation and function and autoimmune neuroinflammation" Uncovering messenger molecules that alter the behavior of immune system cells with the aim of stopping damage to the nervous system in MS.

Lidia Gardner, Ph.D.
The University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Role of apolipoprotein A1 in MS pathogenesis" Examining genes in the spinal fluid of people who have MS, which may reveal a virus possibly connected to the onset of MS.

Thomas Aune, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN
Award: Research Grant

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $300,000
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"Genome copy number variants in multiple clerosis" Understanding how alterations in DNA may contribute to a person's susceptibility to MS and their role in spurring immune attacks.

TEXAS

Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $504,636
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"The role of NFIA in developmental and regenerative oligodendrocyte differentiation" Looking for a way to enhance the development of cells that could repair damaged myelin in MS.

Elizabeth Dragan, M.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Matthew Rasband, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $659,781
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Spectrins as regulators of CNS myelination and axon integrity" Examining a molecule that may need to be protected from damage in MS.

Xiaohu Wang, Ph.D.
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Transcriptional regulation of IL-17/IL-17F expression in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis" Investigating genetic factors that regulate the development of specific immune cells in MS for clues to better treatments.

Scott Davis, Ph.D.
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: Pending
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016 (Est.)

"Title Pending" Studying how MS affects the regulation of blood pressure in response to exercise for clues to potential strategies to improve function.

Jianrong Li, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $402,478
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Role of astroglial galectin-9 in CNS demyelination and remyelination"
Investigating a molecule that may contribute to myelin damage, for clues to repair strategies in MS.

Andrew Steelman, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $156,515
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"The role of the Tim-3/galectin-9 pathway in microglia activation and demyelination." Studying immune system signals for strategies to limit immune attacks and damage in MS.

Nitin Karandikar, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $712,800
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2017

"Role of CNS-specific autoreactive CD8+ T cells in MS" Looking for ways to treat MS by improving the action of cells that control the immune system attack on myelin.
The 2012 Stephen C. Reingold Award for most outstanding research proposal

Manzoor Bhat, Ph.D.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $460,282
Term: 8/1/2012-9/30/2014

"Disorganization and re-organization of axonal domains in myelinated axons" Studying changes in nerve fiber structure that affect the function of nerves for clues to preventing disability in MS.

Nancy Monson, Ph.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $328,641
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Antibody gene signature in transverse myelitis" Looking for patterns of immune gene activity as a way to tell whether an initial attack of transverse myelitis will become MS, which could lead to faster diagnosis and treatment.

Bart Rypma, Ph.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $471,063
Term: 10/1/2011-9/30/2014

"Hemodynamic response function changes In Multiple Sclerosis" Developing ways to measure changes in blood flow in the brain due to MS lesions.

E. Sally Ward, Ph.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $483,717
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Antigen targeting and tolerance in murine EAE" Looking at ways to stop the immune system attack against myelin in MS-like disease.

E. Sally Ward, Ph.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $495,577
Term: 11/1/2009-10/31/2013

"Targeting autoreactive antibodies for the therapy of murine EAE" Developing a method of eliminating destructive antibodies that play a role in MS.

Lai Man Wu, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, TX
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $163,103
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Functional study of transcriptional regulator Sip1 in CNS myelination and remyelination" Exploring the role of a protein for clues to stimulating myelin repair to restore function in MS.

Thomas Forsthuber, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $560,814
Term: 4/1/2006-3/31/2014

"Superagonist peptide-mediated T cell tolerance in EAE" Exploring a novel strategy for `turning off` the immune attack against myelin in MS.

J. William Lindsey, M.D.
University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston
Houston, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Infectious Triggers
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $457,938
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Epstein-Barr virus and multiple sclerosis: correlation of activity" Comparing the activity of several viruses in people with MS that may be involved in triggering immune attacks.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Qing Lu, Ph.D.
UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $231,073
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Chromatin remodeling in oligodendrocyte myelination and remyelination"
Investigating a novel strategy for enhancing myelin repair in MS.
Funded by a gift from the National MS Society South Central Region

Qing Lu, Ph.D.
UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Dallas, TX
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $542,445
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"microRNA Control of Myelination and Remyelination in the Central Nervous System" Investigating ways to encourage brain cells to mature and initiate the repair of nerve-insulating myelin to restore function in people with MS.

UTAH

John Rose, M.D.
Lineagen, Inc.
Salt Lake City, UT
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $622,000
Term: 10/1/2011-10/1/2013

"MS Clinical Biomarker Validation" Developing gene and biomarker based clinical assays for MS.

Melissa Cortez, D.O.
Mayo Clinic Scottsdale
Salt Lake City, UT
Award: Clinical Care Physician Fellowship

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $65,000
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2013

"Clinical Care Physician Fellowship" Post-residency training in specialized MS clinical care for neurologists or physiatrists.

Lee Dibble, Ph.D.
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $43,745
Term: 11/1/2012-10/31/2013

"Postural and gaze stability function in persons with MS at risk for falls: Characterizing deficits and response to treatment" Determining the source of balance problems and falls in people with MS.

Theron Casper, Ph.D.
University of Utah Medical Center
Salt Lake City, UT
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE, END
Funding: $1,270,447
Term: 12/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Pediatric Data Coordinating and Analysis Center" Infrastructure support for pediatric centers network.

VIRGINIA

Jeffrey Dupree, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Maintaining axonal initial segment integrity" Investigating the deterioration of a specific region of the nerve cell, for clues to restoring function to people with progressive MS.

Babette Fuss, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $496,697
Term: 10/1/2009-9/30/2013

"The role of focal adhesion kinase (FAK) in CNS myelination" Investigating how to enhance the capacity for myelin repair to restore function in MS.

VERMONT

Dimitry Krementsov, Ph.D.
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $150,800
Term: 7/1/2011-6/30/2014

"p38 MAPK as a female-specific druggable target in autoimmune disease of the CNS." Studying the effects of a drug that halts a disease similar to MS in female mice.
Funded in part by the Greater New England Chapter in honor of Dr. Hill Panitch

WASHINGTON

Estelle Bettelli, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $590,517
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Identification of pathogenic T cells in EAE" Exploring aspects of how immune cells are controlled by natalizumab for clues to improving therapies for MS.

Simon Glatigny, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, WA
Award: Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $115,142
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2016

"Control of regulatory T cell functions by integrin alpha 4" Understanding how immune cells move into the brain in people with MS, to improve therapies aimed at stopping MS attacks.

Steven Ziegler, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, WA
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Role of Foxp3+RORgt+ T cells in EAE" Determining the role of a specific population of regulatory cells that may help to suppress the attack in MS.

George Georges, M.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $168,752
Term: 1/1/2012-1/1/2015

"Allogeneic HSCT in MS patients :international registry" Establishing a system of tracking the status of people's MS after they undergo bone marrow transplants to treat other conditions.

Harvey Checkoway, M.P.H., Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $360,907 (Pending)
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2015

"Lifetime UVB Exposure, Vitamin D, and Multiple Sclerosis in a Cohort of U.S. Radiologic Technologists" Using a questionnaire to explore the role of exposure to sunlight with the risk of developing MS.

Dawn Ehde, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $385,876
Term: 7/1/2008-6/30/2013

"MS rehabilitation research fellowship program" Providing training to postdoctoral fellows in a wide variety of MS rehabilitation research areas.

Joan Goverman, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $595,993 (Pending)
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Defining mechanisms by which CD8+ and CD4+ T cells coordinately mediate CNS autoimmune disease" Studying an MS model to see how the cells that cause the disease interact, for clues to new avenues for stopping MS in its tracks.

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $382,459
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2018

"The Seattle collaborative post-doctoral fellowship in MS rehabilitation research" A training program to provide fellows research skills that will enable them to conduct studies aimed at improving quality of life for people with MS.

Vasily Yarnykh, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Award: Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $334,479
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Quantitative imaging of white and gray matter demyelination in multiple sclerosis using macromolecular proton fraction mapping" Investigating a new MRI technique to quantify and predict disease activity and damage in the nervous system in people with progressive or relapsing MS.

WISCONSIN

Bonnie Dittel, Ph.D.
BloodCenter of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $440,724
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Elucidating the role of cannabinoid receptor 2 in immune regulation during EAE" Looking at how cannabis-related molecules interact with and affect the immune system and their potential for turning off immune attacks.

Bonnie Dittel, Ph.D.
BloodCenter of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $472,953
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Regulation of EAE by CD86 expressed within the CNS" Investigating how an immune-system signaling molecule suppresses MS-like disease for clues to new treatments to stop MS disease activity.

Ian Duncan, D.V.M., Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $44,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Does chronic loss of axons in the optic nerve result in thinning of the retinal nerve fiber layer?" Validating a measure of nerve damage in models of MS to determine its usefulness for measuring MS progression.

Aaron Field, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $586,436
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"Study of CCSVI in MS using quantitative time-resolved 3D MRV" Understanding the role of CCSVI (vein blockage) in MS and identifying optimal methods for screening for the condition.

Colleen Hayes, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $585,146
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Vitamin D and estrogen synergy in the control of EAE" Exploring how vitamin D and the sex hormone estrogen may interact to control MS-like immune attacks and its implications for MS.

International Grants

ARGENTINA

Gabriel Rabinovich, Ph.D.
Instituto de Biologia y Medicina Experimental
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $412,010
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2014

"Capitalizing on glycomics for the design of novel therapeutic strategies in MS"
Designing and testing a novel therapy aimed at turning off immune attacks such as those involved in MS.

AUSTRALIA

Bevyn Jarrott, Ph.D., B.Pharm.
Howard Florey Institute
Parkville VIC, Australia
Award: Fast Forward - Merck Serono Fund

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $275,000
Term: 5/16/2011-5/16/2013

"Novel compounds to protect glial functions in MS" Targeting tiny pores, called ion channels, to find a therapy that can protect the nervous system from MS damage.

Steven Petratos, Ph.D.
Monash University
Melbourne, Australia
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $510,555
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"Targeting the molecular mechanisms of axonal degeneration in multiple sclerosis" Exploring how alterations in myelin structure affect the behavior of nerve fibers.

Trevor Kilpatrick, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC, Australia
Award: Research Grant

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $507,874
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"BDNF signalling and its impact upon oligodendrocyte myelination in vivo"
Investigating a molecule that may stimulate the repair of myelin in MS.

Trevor Kilpatrick, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC, Australia
Award: Research Grant

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $225,245
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Testing paraclinical outcome measures in optic neuritis" Designing a method to measure nerve fiber protection for use in future clinical trials of new treatments for MS.
2010 Stephen C. Reingold Award for highest ranked research proposal of the year

Sheila Donnelly, Ph.D.
University of Technology, Sydney
Sydney, Australia
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $39,000
Term: 6/1/2012-5/31/2013

"Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis with parasite immunomodulatory molecules"
The effect of several molecules secreted by a common parasite that may suppress the immune attack in MS.

CANADA

Susan Forwell, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $215,078
Term: 7/1/2010-6/30/2013

"UBC MS Rehabilitation Fellowship" Serving as a mentor to train promising clinician-scientists in rehabilitation research specific to MS.

Helen Tremlett, B.S.Pharm., Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $300,362
Term: 7/1/2012-6/30/2015

"Adherence to Immunomodulators in Multiple Sclerosis: Prevalence and Clinical Impact (The AIMS Study)" Examining how following the recommendations for taking MS drugs affects the course of the disease.

Fang Liu, M.D., Ph.D.
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropharmacology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $450,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis"
Studying whether an experimental therapy can limit damage to nerve cells as a first step to develop a new treatment for MS.

Nadim Srour, M.D., M.Sc.
Ottawa Hospital
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $34,620
Term: 4/1/2013-3/30/2014

"Lung volume recruitment for lung function and cough impairment in multiple sclerosis" Determining the frequency of lung function and cough abnormalities in people with MS, and testing a possible treatment.

Marcia Finlayson, Ph.D.
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $173,465
Term: 9/17/2012-9/16/2014

"Building capacity to develop, implement and evaluate MS self-management research" Training postdoctoral fellows to conduct MS rehabilitation research that focuses on examining ways that people can enhance their ability to effectively manage their daily lives and improve their quality of life.

E. Yeh, M.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Health Care Delivery & Policy Research Contract

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $565,925
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"Treatment adherence in pediatric multiple sclerosis" Finding ways to improve the rate at which children and adolescents with MS take their medications as prescribed.

Julien Cohen-Adad, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Ecole Polytechnique
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Award: Research Grant

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $123,075
Term: 4/1/2012-6/30/2014

"In vivo study of white and gray matter pathology in the spinal cord using 7T MRI" Using high-powered imaging technology to reveal details of spinal cord damage in people with primary-progressive MS.

Christina Wolfson, Ph.D.
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Award: Research Grant

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: END
Funding: $131,144
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Developing a Tool-Kit of epidemiological resources for etiological research in pediatric MS" Identifying high-quality questionnaires and other resources to allow researchers to search for factors that trigger MS in children and adults.

ITALY

Chiara Liberati, Ph.D.
Axxam SpA
Milan, Italy
Award: Fast Forward - Merck Serono Fund

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $402,000
Term: 1/12/2012-5/31/2013 (Est.)

"Chloride Channel Blockers' Discovery Program for Inflammatory Microglia Suppression" Assay development/validation and high throughput screening to identify antagonists of CLIC1 chloride ion channel

Stefan Lohmer, Ph.D.
Axxam SpA
Milan, Italy
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $229,813
Term: 12/19/2009-5/31/2013 (Est.)

"Discovery research of Innovative immunosuppressant for Prevention of Multiple Sclerosis" Screening and chemical optimization of small molecule antagonists of Kv1.3, a potassium channel (with JDRF)

Paola Tarroni, M.Sc.
Axxam SpA
Milan, Italy
Award: Fast Forward - Merck Serono Fund

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $430,590
Term: 5/1/2011-11/1/2013

"Antagonists to NCX1-RM" High throughput screening to identify small molecule inhibitors of NCX1-RM, a Na/Ca exchanger, in vitro POC biology and preliminary hit-lead activities

Gianvito Martino, M.D.
Fondazione Centro San Raffaele
Milan, Italy
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $311,992
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2014

"Induced pluripotent stem cells as a potential source of autologous neural stem cells for multiple sclerosis therapy" Transforming normal adult cells into nervous system stem cells that may be used as cells that can help stimulate repair of damaged myelin in MS.

Maria Liguori, M.D., Ph.D.
National Research Council, Institute of Neurological Sciences
Mangone, Italy
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP, END
Funding: $40,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Proteomic profiling of Cerebrospinal Fluid in Clinically Isolated Syndrome: identification of biomarkers predictive of Multiple Sclerosis conversion."
Analyzing spinal fluid samples from people at high risk for MS to determine markers that indicate conversion to definite MS.

Gabriela Constantin, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Verona
Verona, Italy
Award: Research Grant

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $138,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2014

"Effect of metabolic intervention with pantethine on experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis" How a substance related to vitamin B5 can treat EAE, an animal model of MS.

FRANCE

Carlos Parras, Ph.D.
INSERM
Paris, France
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $274,423
Term: 10/1/2010-9/30/2013

"Promoting remyelination from endogenous oligodendrocyte precursors" Studying genes inside the body's spare cells that are capable of maturing into myelin-forming cells to find ways to stimulate nervous system repair in MS.
Funded by the National MS Society's South Central Region

GERMANY

Christoph Heesen, M.D.
University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf
Hamburg, Germany
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $396,392
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2018

"Development and validation of behavioural interventions to enhance self-management in MS" Training in research aimed at developing ways to help people with MS enhance their knowledge and ability for managing their disease.

THE NETHERLANDS

Frank Baas, M.D., Ph.D.
Academic Medical Center
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $617,522
Term: 4/1/2013-3/31/2016

"Defining the roles of complement in secondary progressive MS and EAE"
Determining how an immune component, called complement, may worsen secondary-progressive MS.

Helga de Vries, Ph.D.
VU University Medical Center
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: Pilot Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $39,953
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"MicroRNAs, novel tools for treatment ofmultiple sclerosis" Identifying regulators that should protect the brain but fail in MS, and their possible use in therapeutic strategies to stop the immune attack.

SWEDEN

Per Jansson, D.D.S.
Vicore Pharma
Göteborg, Sweden
Award: Fast Forward - Merck Serono Fund

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $531,300
Term: 9/30/2012-3/30/2014

"Design and synthesize novel, potent small molecule angiotensin AT2-receptor agonists" Developing compounds that may enter the brain to fight MS damage to the nervous system.

SWITZERLAND

Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers, Ph.D.
University of Basel, Klingelbergstrasse
Basel, Switzerland
Award: Research Grant

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $404,238
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"The role of innate immunity and glial metabolism in MS grey matter pathology" Investigating how immune system activity may contribute to long-term disability in MS and its models.

UNITED KINGDOM

MS Society UK
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiative

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $175,000
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2013

"Secondary Progressive MS Clinical Trial Syndicate" Support for a clinical trial to test the ability of multiple compounds to slow or stop MS progression in people with secondary-progressive MS.

Raju Kapoor, M.D.
National Hospital
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grant

Category: Therapy/Management of MS
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $800,515
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2014

"A phase II trial of neuroprotection with phenytoin in acute optic neuritis" A clinical trial to determine whether a therapy for epilepsy can prevent nerve fiber damage in optic neuritis, often an early stage of MS.
Co-funded with the MS Society, United Kingdom

David Baker, Ph.D.
Queen Mary University of London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP, RESTORE
Funding: $384,064
Term: 9/30/2011-9/30/2013

"Engineered precursors as a delivery mechanism for neuroprotective therapies" Developing a new strategy to deliver a myelin-repair therapy to protect the nervous system from MS damage.

Gavin Giovannoni, M.D., Ph.D.
Queen Mary University of London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grant

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $779,538
Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2015

"CSF neurofilaments: a novel phase 2a neuroprotective trial in early SPMS" Can a protein in spinal fluid serve as a signal that shows whether a therapy tested for secondary-progressive MS can protect the nervous system?

David Selwood, Ph.D.
University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: STOP
Funding: $284,354
Term: 8/20/2012-8/20/2013

"Development of a selective cyclophilin D (CyP-D) blocker as a new MS drug" Synthesizing and testing chemicals similar to cyclosporin to optimize their nerve-protecting effects in MS.

Robin Franklin, Ph.D., D.V.M.
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: Fast Forward - General Fund

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: RESTORE
Funding: $200,000
Term: 7/13/2012-7/13/2013

"Identification of Retinoic acid gamma agonist 'hit like' molecules" Identifying molecules for future testing that may promote myelin repair and restore function in people with MS.