

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Advisory Committee on Access to MS Medications

**ELIZABETH PAGE
CO-LEAD**



Elizabeth Page is a trustee with the Greater Carolinas Chapter. She chairs the Chapter's Government Relations Committee for North Carolina and is a past member of the Society's Activism Advisory Committee. Elizabeth served as appointee on the administrative board of the North Carolina Health Insurance Risk Pool which oversaw state and federal pre-existing condition insurance programs.

**BARI TALENTE, JD
CO-LEAD**



Currently the Society's Executive Vice President of Advocacy, Bari Talente previously served as Vice President of State and Local Government Relations. Since joining the Society in 2004, Bari has helped people affected by MS discover the power of activism and focused the Society's advocacy to find solutions and resources for the MS community. Prior to joining the Society, Bari worked at the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and was selected as a fellow in the New York State Senate Fellowship Program.

CRAIG ACOMB



Craig Acomb is the Chief Operating Officer of the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI), an independent, nonprofit healthcare improvement organization that is a collaboration of medical groups, hospitals, nonprofit health plans, employers, and consumers bringing innovation and urgency to the improvement of health, the patient experience and quality, and affordability of care (the Triple Aim). He currently serves as a Society trustee in the Upper Midwest, and lives with MS.

HOWARD S. BARON, JR.



Mr. Baron was born and raised in the New York City area and moved to Michigan in 1978 to begin working for Ford Motor Company. Mr. Baron and his wife, Nancy, have lived in Bloomfield Township, MI since 1991. Nancy was diagnosed with MS in 1994.

Since 1983, Mr. Baron has volunteered at a community theatre; he spearheaded the acquisition of a \$160,000 grant from the State of Michigan and successfully lobbied for the passage of a state law exempting cultural arts organizations from state sales tax. As part of the Bloomfield Hills School Board, Mr. Baron has addressed budgeting issues, improved student achievement, and lobbied for public schools in Lansing and Washington DC. He is a member of the Oakland County School Board Association's Legislative Committee and the Michigan Association of School Boards' Government Relations Committee.

In 2013, Mr. Baron began preparing income taxes for low and moderate income individuals and families through programs sponsored by AARP and the Accounting Aid Society (AAS) of Detroit. He also helps with AAS's Financial Coaching program. In 2014, he received a Daily Points of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation.

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DENNIS BOURDETTE, MD



Dr. Dennis Bourdette is Chair and Roy & Eulalia Swank Family Research Professor of the Department of Neurology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), as well as the Executive Director of the OHSU Multiple Sclerosis Center. In 2001 Dr. Bourdette also became Co-Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence-West (MSCoE-West), which is one of two national MS Centers of Excellence established by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TIMOTHY COETZEE, PhD



Timothy Coetzee is the chief advocacy, services and research officer at the National MS Society. Tim has been a leader in the pursuit of innovative ways to move us closer to a world free of MS since receiving his PhD in microbiology and immunology in 1993. He has demonstrated proven ability to create critical partnerships and effective collaborations worldwide to move research and treatment forward faster for people affected by all forms of MS.

Tim has also been engaged in MS advocacy work throughout his career and understands the connection between the Society's advocacy and the government and private sector research, and investment in basic, clinical and commercial research.

KATHLEEN COSTELLO, MS, ANP-BC



Kathleen Costello joined the Society in 2013 to lead our access to quality healthcare strategy and the organizational initiative on wellness in MS. An Adult Nurse Practitioner and Adjunct Assistant Professor at The Johns Hopkins MS Center, she has written and lectured extensively on MS and MS care. Kathy is a past president of the International Organization of MS Nurses and past chair of the Consortium of MS Centers MS Specialist Certification Committee. She is a member of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland and the International Organization of MS Nurses.

SHERRI GIGER, JD



Sherri joined the Society in 2006 to lead and develop the Society's marketing, communications, and digital team, and to launch the new brand and voice. Prior to joining the Society, Sherri spent almost 20 years in the high technology industry, primarily in product and corporate marketing leadership positions for customer relationship management and logistics management software solutions where she led global business units. She continues to volunteer in a variety of different capacities for local non-profit organizations and as pro-bono legal counsel. In addition to her marketing role, Sherri also contributes as part-time corporate counsel, focusing on Society contracts and intellectual property matters.

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DINA GLASSMAN, JD



Dina Glassman has been involved with the Society for 15 years as a trustee in Oregon where she most recently co-chaired the Walk MS event. Dina has been living with MS for 16 years, and her mother, Lyudmila, has lived with secondary progressive MS for over 30 years. Dina is a former attorney, who now works as a career coach for lawyers seeking to find better integration in their lives. She lives in Portland with her husband, Darren, son, Noah, and mutt, Sabine.

**YOLANDA HARRIS, MSN, CRNP,
CPNP-AC**



Yolanda Harris is pediatric nurse practitioner that has provided care for children and teens with MS and other demyelinating diseases at UAB's Center for Pediatric Onset Demyelinating Disease for the past decade. She is also a dedicated volunteer of the Society, participating in education initiatives and local and national boards that will benefit people living with MS of all ages. She is also a clinical instructor for nurse practitioner trainees in the UAB School of Nursing.

WEYMAN T. JOHNSON, JD



Weyman Johnson is former chair of the Society's National Board of Directors, and has been a trustee in Georgia since 1988, serving as chair of the local board from 1990-1994. He joined the board of the MS International Federation in 2004 and currently serves as its chair. Weyman's father and aunt lived with MS, his sister lives with MS, and Weyman received his own diagnosis of MS in 1990. Weyman is a persuasive advocate to increase funding levels at the National Institutes of Health and MS Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, and more. At the Society's 2015 Public Policy Conference, he led a panel discussion on the importance of determining the number of Americans that live MS — the Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act — to move research forward, faster.

DAVID E. JONES, MD



Dr. Jones graduated from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 2003, after which he completed his neurology residency at the University of Massachusetts in 2007, serving as Chief Resident in his last year of residency. He completed a neuroimmunology and MS fellowship at the University of Massachusetts as a Clinical Fellow of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in 2008. After his training, he accepted a position as the Director of the MS Center of the Lehigh Valley in Allentown, PA, where he worked until accepting a faculty position as Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA, in 2012. David holds leadership roles with the American Academy of Neurology, the Consortium of MS Centers, Can Do MS, and the MS Foundation. His interest is advocating for multi-disciplinary, comprehensive care to patients with MS.

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EUGENE MAY, MD



Dr. Eugene May is a neuro-ophthalmologist at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, runs an MS Eye Clinic affiliated with the Swedish MS Center, and is on the Clinical Faculty of the Neurology and Ophthalmology Departments of the University of Washington. Dr. May is also a Society trustee in the Greater Northwest, member of our Chapter Government Relations Committee, Chair of the Society's Activism Advisory Committee, and member of the National Medical Advisory Committee.

GRAHAM MCREYNOLDS



Graham McReynolds is the chief marketing and development officer for the Society, responsible for all organizational development and marketing activities in the United States. Graham has more than 20 years of marketing, development and management experience in not-for-profit and health care advocacy organizations, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Oregon Hospice Association, Oregon Health and Science University and the Oregon Symphony.

Since joining the Society, Graham has spearheaded the organizational effort to establish a new, universal voice for MS and help establish an MS movement by and for people living with MS.

STEVE NISSEN



Steve Nissen is Senior Director, Benefits and Employment within the Services Team of the Society's Information Resource Center. He leads nationwide work in ensuring that people affected by MS throughout the country connect with health insurance, benefits and employment information and resources. Steve has been with the Society since 1998.

ROBERT SEEHAUSEN



Bob is the Senior Vice President of Business Development and Sales for Novant Health's hospitals and physician groups. He has been with Novant for more than 15 years and is responsible for system-wide payer relationships, strategic planning, pricing strategy and business development. Prior to Novant, Bob worked in a variety of capacities including neonatal disease management with Paidos Health Management, physician practice management with Health Partners, Inc., and was one of the founders of Tiber Group, a healthcare strategic consulting firm.

Bob was appointed to the board of the North Carolina Health Insurance Risk Pool, and is a member of the provider advisory board of an international commercial and Medicare Advantage insurer. Bob is the past president of the NC Healthcare Information and Communication Alliance; he completed Leadership North Carolina as a member of Class VIII.

Bob has served as a Society trustee in Greater Carolinas and on the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) as a consumer reviewer of MS research proposals, and he captains the Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center MS Bike Team. He also serves on the Executive Board of the Old Hickory Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

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BRANDT WILKINS



Brandt Wilkins owns a creative marketing services company by the name of Wet Paint Communications in Denver, Colorado. Located in the Santa Fe Arts District, Wet Paint was established in 1997 and serves such clients as Hunter Douglas and its flagship brands along with Custom Brands Group, Donor Alliance, AlloSource, Parago, TruStile Doors and The Fletcher Group. Services provided include strategic direction, art direction and design for print, web-based marketing and trade show communications.

Brandt hails from Goldsboro, NC. After a career in New York City where he worked on such clients as UPS, Waterford Wedgwood, BMW and Sony, Brandt joined his now-husband David Alexander in Denver in 1991. Brandt also captains a Walk MS team – the Wet Paint Walkers – that has raised over \$250,000 in support of the Society and its vision of a world free of MS.

CYNDI ZAGIEBOYLO



Cyndi Zagieboylo became president and CEO of the Society in 2011. She began her National MS Society career in 1985 and has worked with every CEO of the organization including founder, Sylvia Lawry. Achieving the Society mission is her life's work.

Cyndi serves on the Society's National Board of Directors as CEO and president, on the National Health Council CEO group and Board of Directors, and on the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation CEO Advisory Group and Board of Directors. She is a founding member of the International Progressive MS Alliance which was launched in 2013, and she provides leadership as chair of the executive committee. The Alliance was formed to expedite the development of therapies for progressive MS through connecting resources and experts around the world.