NEW PILOT RESEARCH PROJECTS SLATED TO BEGIN JUNE 1, 2018

The National MS Society committed to fund the following nine pilot research projects. Pilot research projects are one-year, “high-risk” awards to quickly test novel ideas.

- “Imaging axons in multiple sclerosis using Spherical Mean Technique”
  Testing a new type of imaging to capture the extent of nerve fiber loss in the brains of people with MS.
  Term: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019
  Grant Amount: $44,000
  Project Leader: Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD
  Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

- “Childhood Radiologically Isolated Syndrome Study”
  Studying children with evidence of MS-like damage on MRI, but no symptoms, for ways of predicting MS.
  Term: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019
  Grant Amount: $44,000
  Project Leader: Vikram Bhise, MD
  Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ

- “The effects of Religiosity/Spirituality in Coping with Multiple Sclerosis”
  Addressing how religion and spirituality affect coping behavior and health management behavior in people with MS.
  Term: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019
  Grant Amount: $44,000
  Project Leader: Chung-Yi Chiu, PhD
  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

- “Development of the disease-specific PedsQL™ for pediatric patients with MS”
  To develop and validate a measure for evaluating quality of life in children and adolescents with MS.
  Term: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019
  Grant Amount: $43,370
  Project Leader: Soe Mar, MD
  Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

- “The role of C1QL1 in oligodendrocyte maturation”
  Identifying a previously unknown mechanism by which the brain can create new myelin-making cells to conduct tissue repair.
  Term: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019
  Grant Amount: $44,000
  Project Leader: David Martinelli, PhD
  University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT
• “Testing molecular mimicry between human endogenous retrovirus envelope proteins and myelin proteins”
  Exploring one idea for how the immune attack is launched on the brain and spinal cord in MS.
  **Term:** 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019  
  **Grant Amount:** $21,482  
  **Project Leader:** Ute-Christiane Meier, PhD  
  Queen Mary University of London, London, UK

• “Unravelling longitudinal mitochondrial DNA mutations in Multiple Sclerosis: association with disease activity and progression”
  Clarifying the connection between MS and dysfunction of the mitochondria -the "powerhouses" of cells.
  **Term:** 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019  
  **Grant Amount:** $36,500  
  **Project Leader:** Vanessa Morais, PhD  
  Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Lisbon, Portugal

• “Oral delivery of 5-MER peptide attenuates paralysis in EAE model of Multiple Sclerosis”
  Testing a synthetic product that shows promise for protecting against nervous system damage in mice with MS-like disease.
  **Term:** 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019  
  **Grant Amount:** $40,000  
  **Project Leader:** David Naor, PhD  
  Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, IL

• “Roles of TMEM2 and CEMIP in oligodendrocyte differentiation”
  Determining the role of two proteins that may inhibit repair of nerve-insulating myelin in MS.
  **Term:** 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019  
  **Grant Amount:** $44,000  
  **Project Leader:** Larry Sherman, PhD  
  Oregon Health & Sciences University, Portland, OR