

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