



## **WE ARE A DRIVING FORCE OF MS RESEARCH, RELENTLESSLY PURSUING PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND CURE**

### **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS NUMBERS**

**Prevalence, U.S.:** 400,000 people

**Prevalence, Worldwide:** 2.5 million people

**Economics of MS:** Annual economic cost of MS in the U.S. approx. \$28 billion

**Current Society Research Spending:** \$46 million annually for 440 MS investigations

**Society's Cumulative Investment:** \$600 million (by end FY '08) since first 3 grants in 1947

### **SPEED, INNOVATION, COLLABORATION**

- Fast-tracking approvals for high-risk pilot grants to quickly test novel ideas
- Evaluating urgent research opportunities with special peer review panels
- Exploring non-traditional research avenues, including: health care policy and delivery; quality of life; impact of MS; complementary and alternative therapies; and innovative concepts initiated by pharmaceutical and biotech industries
- Fostering collaboration between MS experts and experts from outside fields/diseases through special research awards
- Engaging thought leaders to identify new areas of opportunity, set priorities and serve as peer reviewers and advisors
- Supporting MS tissue and DNA banks as shared resources to enhance discovery
- Leveraging support from other organizations, agencies and industry to propel MS research

### **SPECIAL TARGETED INITIATIVES**

**Nervous System Repair** = Four large-scale, international teams are setting the stage for clinical testing to ultimately restore function in persons with MS.

**Sonya Slifka Longitudinal MS Study** = Tracking all aspects of people's lives and how MS and its treatment affects them.

**The MS Lesion Project** = Correlating damaged brain tissues and symptoms for evidence of different types of MS and clues to better treatments.

**Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence** = Regional centers across the U.S. to set standards of care for children with MS, provide psychosocial support and create a framework for critical research.

**Fast Forward™** = Large-scale initiative to speed the delivery of new treatments to people with MS by bridging the gap between university and industry and by funding projects within the small pharma and small biotech industries.

### **WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS**

- There are more potential therapies in the pipeline for MS than at any other time in history.
- We funded basic and clinical research that helped lead to the development of each of the six approved disease-modifying drugs for MS.
- We funded a major collaborative initiative that led to breakthroughs in identifying gene variations that contribute to MS susceptibility.
- We have trained or funded many of the leading MS researchers making breakthroughs today.
- Right now, our researchers are developing and testing novel experimental treatments and tissue repair strategies that may soon be in use for MS.

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## MAJOR RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

**Therapy and Rehabilitation of MS:** searching for treatments for all forms of MS

**Understanding the Immune System:** exploring the role of the body's complex immune system in the development, progression and possible suppression of MS

**Understanding and Repairing Damaged Tissues:** investigating how MS damages myelin and nerve fibers in the brain and spinal cord, and how to repair that damage

**Risk Factors:** searching for environmental/genetic risk factors for clues to cure and prevent MS

**Biomarkers and Advanced Imaging:** tracking the disease to better predict its course and improve tools for determining if experimental treatments are working

**Psychosocial Aspects of MS:** exploring how MS impacts the thinking and mood of persons with MS and their family members and searching for strategies to help

**Health-Care Delivery & Policy:** studying issues of health care access and quality to improve care for people with MS

## CENTERS WHERE THE SOCIETY IS SPENDING THE MOST RESEARCH DOLLARS

- 1) Harvard University
- 2) University of California at San Francisco
- 3) Johns Hopkins University
- 4) Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- 5) University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 6) Washington University
- 7) Mayo Clinic and Foundation

## MAJOR TYPES OF SOCIETY RESEARCH SUPPORT

**Research Grants:** multiyear investigations by experienced scientists for basic, clinical and rehabilitation research

**Collaborative MS Research Center Awards:** five-year grants to interdisciplinary teams of researchers to stimulate cross-pollination of ideas and attract new minds to the field

**Pilot research grants:** high-risk/high potential reward projects to test innovative, cutting-edge ideas

**Research and Clinical Fellowships:** to attract and train promising young investigators and doctors into the field of MS

**Rehabilitation Research Fellowships:** to meet the unmet need for specialists trained to conduct quality rehabilitation research

**Health Care Delivery and Policy Contracts:** to support key questions in health care delivery and policy research to inform advocacy efforts and enhance quality of life for people with MS