



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FACT SHEET



ANQUETTE, DIAGNOSED IN 2013



PETER, DIAGNOSED IN 2015



JOSEPH (L), DIAGNOSED IN 2008

- The National MS Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides services designed to help people with MS and their families move their lives forward.
- The Society has invested more than \$1 billion to advance MS research and is recognized as the catalyst for all major advancements in MS, including the first therapies for primary progressive and pediatric MS.
- Approximately 75% of total revenue is devoted to research and services for people living with MS, while the remainder is invested in support services such as fundraising and management.
- The Society partners with the healthcare community to promote access to comprehensive high-quality healthcare and has launched the careers of 120 MS specialists who provide care to more than 100,000 people with MS.
- In the U.S., 100% of people affected by MS have access to an MS Navigator who will partner with them to address individual challenges and concerns. Case management is available when problems are so complex they require home visits.

VISION

A world free of multiple sclerosis.

MISSION

People affected by MS can live their best lives as we **stop MS in its tracks, restore what has been lost and end MS forever.**

MS FACTS

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

is an **unpredictable**, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information between the brain and body.

Nearly

**1 MILLION
PEOPLE**



live with MS in the United States —
2X the previous estimate.

SYMPTOMS VARY

from person to person and range from numbness or tingling, to walking difficulties, fatigue, dizziness, pain, depression, blindness and paralysis.

- The Society's comprehensive Find Doctors and Resources tool is available 24 hours a day to help people affected by MS find healthcare providers and community resources so they can live their best lives.
- The National MS Society protects and expands access to affordable, high-quality healthcare — engaging 300+ District Activist Leaders, 35,000 MS Activist Network members and insights from health policy research.
- The Society leads the International Progressive Alliance to end progressive MS, with nearly 20 countries and an investment of \$60 million to-date to accelerate the pace of progressive MS research.
- Sylvia Lawry founded the National MS Society in March 1946. The National MS Society is one of 48 sister Societies forming the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation also founded by Sylvia Lawry, who died at age 86 in 2001.
- Cyndi Zagieboylo became the National MS Society's president and CEO in 2011 and has devoted three decades to the MS cause.
- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving us closer to a world free of MS.

MS FACTS

There are

4 BASIC DISEASE COURSES
that have been identified:

- 1 Clinically isolated syndrome
- 2 Relapsing-remitting MS
- 3 Secondary progressive MS
- 4 Primary progressive MS

Women are

**2 TO 3 TIMES
MORE LIKELY**



than men to develop MS.

Most people are

diagnosed between the

AGES OF 20 & 50

but **research estimates upwards of 10,000 children** under the age of 18 live with MS worldwide.

**MS OCCURS IN
MOST ETHNIC GROUPS**

including Caucasians, Black Americans, Asians and Hispanics/Latinos.



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nationalMSSociety.org

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