



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

List of Current Research Projects Funded by the National MS Society

Sorted by State/Country

March 2020

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Introduction

The National MS Society invests in promising research to drive breakthroughs that will stop MS, restore function and end MS forever. We manage an international portfolio of academic and commercial research projects, train the next generation of scientists and MS specialists, foster global collaboration between MS researchers, and convene experts to identify strategic [research priorities](#). These priorities are critical to advancing solutions for people living with MS today, and ultimately to a prevention and cure.

This document lists MS research projects being funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (USA), sorted by state and country, as of March 31, 2020.

Notes:

- 1) Some listed projects have indications of restricted support that has been provided by donors and other friends of the Society. These are listed in italic typeface directly beneath the project title.
- 2) Some projects with start dates in 2020 may be delayed due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3) This list is not an official record and any errors do not reflect official changes to research award agreements. Some grants listed here have do not have final signed agreements.

Research Priorities

Risk Factors: “Why do some people get MS and others don’t?”

Although tremendous progress has been made in identifying key biological pathways that contribute to MS risk, the cause is still unknown. Preventing MS for future generations requires a deep understanding of what triggers MS, how triggers lead to the development of the disease, and how to protect against it.

Pathology: “What is the cause of MS?”

Much has been learned about immune system activity in the relapsing-remitting phase of MS and this knowledge has led to the development of effective disease-modifying therapies. Less understood is the relationship between initial immune activity and progressive neurodegeneration and how innate immunity participates in the progressive phase of MS. Identifying the causes of MS, and the underlying mechanisms and biological pathways involved in MS injury to the brain and spinal cord, will expose new targets for the development of treatments to stop the damage that causes disability.

Progression: “How do we stop MS progression?”

MS progression often occurs early in the disease, even while the brain compensates for injury and even in people successfully treated for relapses. Progression is not easily measured and usually happens over long periods of time, making it hard to quickly detect whether a therapy is impacting the course of disease. This has made the development of therapies for progressive stages of MS a challenge. Diagnosing progressive disease based on biomarkers, in addition to clinical presentation would enable the testing of therapies earlier, promising better ways of protecting the nervous system from MS injury.

Neuroprotection/Nervous System Repair: “How do we repair the damage caused by MS?”

The hopes of people living with MS today rest on finding a way to stop disease worsening by preventing neurodegeneration and reversing the damage to restore lost function. The brain can repair myelin and also rewire itself around damaged areas, but in order to significantly impact disease, this natural ability needs to be enhanced. In addition to developing treatment strategies, there is a crucial need for non-invasive ways to determine quickly whether neuroprotective and repair strategies are working.

Symptoms, Rehabilitation, Wellness: “How do we reverse symptoms and promote wellness?”

Emerging evidence suggests that wellness behaviors and lifestyle factors can influence the risk for developing MS, disease course, severity of symptoms and quality of life. Finding ways to understand and address the variable and unpredictable symptoms caused by MS will have a profound impact on people’s quality of life. In addition, people with MS often live with other chronic medical conditions. Understanding how these other health conditions affect MS disease course and symptoms represents an important research opportunity. Focusing on opportunities to improve the design and conduct of clinical trials and providing strategies people can incorporate to enhance their wellbeing should be emphasized.

About Our Research Projects

The Society offers a spectrum of funding opportunities and resources to support MS investigators at virtually every stage of their careers. These include:

- **Career Transition Fellowships** – awards up to five years to facilitate the advancement of promising young investigators into full faculty positions
- **Collaborative MS Research Center Awards** – 5-year awards to help stimulate creativity and interaction among investigators working within and outside MS fields
- **Fast Forward** – Commercial and academic partnerships aimed at specific strategies to drive the discovery of new therapies for people with MS
- **Harry Weaver Scholar Awards** – special five-year projects by promising young investigators just starting their careers as independent researchers
- **Health Care Delivery & Policy Contracts** – initiated by the Society and awarded on a competitive basis to investigators studying subjects identified as mission priorities
- **International Progressive MS Alliance** – projects jointly funded by Alliance members; [Read more](#)
- **Mentor-based Postdoctoral Rehabilitation Fellowships** – to enhance research into MS rehabilitation to improve quality of life
- **NMSS/American Brain Foundation Clinician Scientist Development Award** -- to train physicians in MS clinical research
- **Pilot Research Grants** – aimed at exploring new, untested ideas and attracting new researchers to investigate MS
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships** – research projects by young investigators working under the mentorship of senior scientists, to provide training in MS research
- **Research Grants** – full grants for basic, clinical and rehabilitation research
- **Strategic Initiatives** – special projects that focus on core resources or other important unmet research needs
- **Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships** – young doctors working under the mentorship of seasoned clinicians, to provide training and experience in conducting clinical trials in people with MS

About 'Categories'

This list includes the category, or research discipline, within which a specific project belongs.

- **Biochem./Biophysics** - Understanding basic cell processes to enhance knowledge of factors underlying MS
- **Biology of Glia/Myelin** - Investigating how myelin is formed and the role played by oligodendrocytes and other nervous system support cells in MS
- **CNS Repair** - Searching for ways to stop and reverse tissue damage in MS
- **Diagnostic Methods** - Investigating ways to improve the detection and diagnosis of MS
- **Epidemiology** - Investigating who gets MS in search of the cause and risk/ protective factors
- **Health Care Delivery/ Policy** - Studying how people with MS utilize health-care services and how health-care delivery can be improved
- **Human Genetics** - Searching for genes that make people susceptible to MS or otherwise influence the disease, for clues to its cause, prevention and better treatment
- **Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS** - Investigations into treatments for all forms of MS, and training physicians in MS clinical research and trials
- **Immunology** - Exploring the role of the immune system in the development and progression of MS to find ways to stop the immune attack on nervous tissues
- **Infectious Triggers** - Examining the possibility that viruses or bacteria could act as disease triggers in MS
- **Measuring MS Disease Activity** - Using sophisticated tools to track MS activity over time
- **Neuropathology** - Exploring how nerve fibers and cells are damaged during the course of MS
- **Neuropharmacology** - Studying how potential therapies impact the nervous system
- **Neurophysiology** - Exploring how nerve fibers and cells work normally and in the disease state
- **Physiology** - Understanding how MS may impact functions of the body
- **Preclinical Drug Development** - Laboratory research to collect data needed before an experimental therapy can be tested in people
- **Psychosocial Aspects of MS** - Understanding how MS effects cognitive functioning and other aspects of quality of life and wellness
- **Rehabilitation** - Seeking ways to maximize physical and mental abilities and reduce symptoms and increase wellbeing
- **Tissue/DNA Banks** - Shared resource of tissues and DNA banks that accumulate and store specimens for use by MS investigators

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PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUSTRALIA

Anne-Louise Ponsonby, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.

The Australian National University
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia
Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2018-10/1/2021

“Identifying epigenetic factors involved in MS onset : utilising population-based studies with genetic and environmental measures.” Researchers at the Australian National University are studying a link between the environment and how genes are turned on and off to trigger the onset of MS.

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$555,546

Jonathan Baell, Ph.D.

Monash University
Clayton, Victoria, Australia
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

“PEGylated Gas6 for treating progressive multiple sclerosis” Monash University researchers are developing and testing a version of a natural brain protein for its ability to protect the nervous system from the damaging impacts of MS.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufser Family

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$49,833

Trevor Kilpatrick, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.

Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

“Modulating microglial activity for treatment of demyelinating diseases of the CNS” Australian researchers are testing whether the transplant of modified microglia – immune cells of the brain – can improve repair of nerve-insulating myelin in a model of MS.

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$403,830

Alexandr Klistorner, Ph.D.

Macquarie University
North Ryde, New South Wales, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2014-10/1/2020

“Investigating mechanisms of axonal degeneration in multiple sclerosis” What are the mechanisms that drive progressive nervous system damage in MS?

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$1,124,000

Yuyi You, M.D., Ph.D.

Macquarie University
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

“Investigating the role of demyelination in anterograde transsynaptic degeneration in MS” University of Sydney researchers are studying the contributions of myelin loss to nerve degeneration, which can lead to MS progression.

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$639,136

CANADA

Carlos Camara Lemarroy, M.D.

University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$48,840

“Remote ischemic preconditioning to promote remyelination” Researchers at the University of Calgary are exploring a novel strategy for promoting myelin repair.

Peter Stys, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$49,950

“Non-immune role of B cells in the pathogenesis of MS” Calgary scientists are investigating a role for immune B cells in MS progression by looking at these cells in blood samples from people with MS.

Jeff Dunn, Ph.D.

University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$369,028

“Using light based technology to identify the extent of hypoxia in the cortex of patients with MS”

University of Calgary researchers are using new technology to detect and investigate whether and how reduced levels of oxygen in parts of the brain may impact people with MS.

Marcia Finlayson, Ph.D.

Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$382,724

“Building capacity for MS self-management research and knowledge translation” Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in MS Rehabilitation Research to provide training in research into self-management programs for people with MS.

Douglas Arnold, M.D.

McGill University
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center
Term: 1/1/2017-12/31/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$3,815,026

“An MRI biomarker for disability progression for use in clinical trials” Identifying a biomarker of disability progression for use in clinical trials.

Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Lara Pilutti, Ph.D.

University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$44,821

“Characterizing the Acute Response to Adapted Exercise in Non-ambulatory People with Multiple Sclerosis” University of Ottawa researchers are studying the impacts and enjoyment of adapted exercise in people with MS who use wheelchairs.

Lara Pilutti, Ph.D.

University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2016-11/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$351,620

“Lifestyle physical activity intervention for improving cardiorespiratory fitness and vascular comorbidity risk in multiple sclerosis” University of Ottawa researchers are testing an intervention to increase physical activity to determine if it can improve fitness and reduce vascular disease risk in people with MS.

Fang Liu, M.D., Ph.D.

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 3/23/2017-1/1/2021

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$609,450

“Preclinical characterization and modification of small molecule drugs for the treatment for multiple sclerosis” Researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto are refining a novel approach to stopping MS damage to the nervous system and progression.

Funded in Collaboration with the MS Society of Canada

E. Yeh, M.D.

The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$352,950

“Pediatric MS: Shaping the future of outcomes and disability” This training program at the University of Toronto Hospital for Sick Children will equip researchers with experience and knowledge to design and conduct research aimed at improving wellness in children with MS.

E. Yeh, M.D.

The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$665,470

“Physical Activity, Quality of Life and Disease Outcomes in Youth with Multiple Sclerosis: the ATOMIC (Active Teens Multiple Sclerosis) Physical Activity Research Program” A team at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto is testing if a smartphone app that provides tailored physical activity info/coaching can increase physical activity in pediatric MS.

Alexander Rauscher, M.Sc., Ph.D.

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$309,320

“Imaging markers for tissue damage and repair in MS” Researchers at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver are improving brain MRI to better detect disease activity, severity, and changes over time in people with MS.

Helen Tremlett, Ph.D.

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$46,339

“Genomic variants associated with DMF induced lymphopenia in MS [GenDMF-MS]” Seeking to predict and ultimately prevent adverse drug reactions in people with MS.

GERMANY

Stefan Gold, Ph.D.

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Berlin, Germany
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$1,397,712

“Online program to reduce depression in MS – a phase III international multicenter randomized controlled trial” Researchers at Berlin, Germany’s Charité University Medical Center are testing the effectiveness of a computer program for overcoming MS-related depression.

Stefan Gold, Ph.D.

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Berlin, Germany
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2023

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$414,685

“Neurobiological Mechanisms of Rehabilitation in MS” Researchers at the Charité University Medical Center Berlin, Germany are training promising professionals to advance MS rehabilitation research by applying molecular biology techniques.

Frank Schildberg, Ph.D.

Universitäts Klinikum Bonn
Bonn, Germany
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2017-12/17/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$65,802

“Cell type-specific functions of PD-L1 in controlling EAE” Researchers are exploring the mechanisms by which a molecule seems to control the initiation and resolution of EAE of MS-like disease.

Lucas Schirmer, M.D.

University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$129,666

“Understanding and modulating astrocyte diversity in MS and experimental demyelination”

Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco are investigating characteristics of the various types of astrocytes, a cell type that forms scars and blocks repair in lesions found in the brain in MS.

Ari Waisman, M.Sc., Ph.D.

University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg-
University Mainz
Mainz, Germany
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$484,464

“The role and mode-of-action of IL-17 in the CNS” Researchers in Mainz, Germany are identifying the destructive activities that are launched by an immune messenger called IL-17, for clues to stopping MS.

Tanja Kuhlmann, M.D.

University Hospital Münster
Münster, Germany
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/20/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$337,352

“Effect of age on human oligodendroglial differentiation and (re-)myelination” Researchers at University Hospital in Münster, Germany, are determining the factors that may limit the repair of myelin damaged during the course of MS.

ISRAEL

Netta Levin, M.D., Ph.D.

Medical Research Fund of Hadassah Medical
Organization
Jerusalem, Israel
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/25/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$147,360

“Temporal reorganization to overcome monocular demyelination – unique plasticity mechanism in MS – A renewal application” Researchers at Hadassah Hebrew University in Israel are investigating how eyesight is restored by natural repair and rewiring processes after optic neuritis in MS.

Jeffrey Hausdorff, Ph.D.

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center
Tel Aviv, Israel
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$938,522

“Virtual Reality-treadmill combined intervention for enhancing mobility and cognitive function in patients with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Israel and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are conducting a trial to test a rehabilitation strategy that addresses walking and thinking issues in a single, integrated approach.

Lior Mayo, Ph.D.

Tel Aviv University
Tel Aviv, Israel

Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$50,000

“The Role of CD157+ Cells in Acute and Progressive MS” Studying immunological mechanisms that contribute to disease progression and to exploring their therapeutic potential for MS.

Lior Mayo, Ph.D.

Tel Aviv University
Tel Aviv, Israel

Award: Research Grants
Term: 1/1/2017-12/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$375,000

“Role of CD38 in the control of the innate and adaptive immune responses during CNS inflammation” Researchers at Tel Aviv University are investigating an immune-system protein for its role in driving MS progression, for clues to stopping progression in its tracks.

ITALY

Gianvito Martino, M.D.

Fondazione Centro San Raffaele
Milan, Italy

Award: International Progressive MS Alliance -
Collaborative Network Center
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2021

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$3,998,585

“Bioinformatics and cell reprogramming to develop an in vitro platform to discover new drugs for progressive multiple sclerosis (BRAVEinMS)” Identifying therapy candidates with neuroprotective and/or myelin repair activity to speed the search for treatments for progressive MS.

Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members; Funded in full by an Anonymous Investor

Marika Falcone, M.D., Ph.D.

Fondazione Centro San Raffaele
Milan, Italy

Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$335,544

“Assessing the immune regulatory role of gut microbiota in brain autoimmunity and disease activity in RRMS patients” Researchers in Milan, Italy are analyzing how gut bacteria influence immune cell behavior in the brain, and how alterations in those bacteria may reduce or exacerbate MS disease activity.

Rosella Mechelli, Ph.D.

Università Telematica San Raffaele Roma
Rome, Italy

Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2021

Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$100,000

“EBV genotyping in MS” Investigators in Rome, Italy are confirming a clarifying the possible role of specific strains of Epstein-Barr virus as a triggering factor in MS.

LEBANON

Hala Darwish, Ph.D.

American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

“Interacting with Nature using virtual reality: A pilot intervention to restore cognitive fatigue in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)” A team in Beirut is testing whether interacting with nature via virtual reality can decrease cognitive fatigue in people with MS.

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$49,900

PORTUGAL

Carlos Duarte, Ph.D.

University of Coimbra
Coimbra, Portugal

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2016-6/30/2020

“Novel cerebrospinal fluid and serum biomarkers for Multiple Sclerosis” Investigators at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, are exploring whether proteins they have identified in the spinal fluid may be used as biomarkers or flags to help diagnose and track MS.

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$175,000

SINGAPORE

Mahmoud Pouladi, M.Sc., Ph.D.

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (ASTAR)
Singapore, Singapore

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

“Ermin in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers in Singapore are doing lab studies to understand how a rare gene mutation related to myelin may influence the risk of developing MS.

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: End

Research Priority: Risk Factors

Approx. Funding: \$652,196

SWITZERLAND

Anne-Katrin Probstel, M.D.

transferring to University Hospital Basel
Basel, Switzerland

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

“Kathleen C. Moore Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship: Gut-Brain-Axis: crosstalk between B cells and gut microbiota in MS” Researchers are identifying harmful gut bacteria in people with MS and testing their role in disease triggering and progression.

The Kathleen C Moore Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Risk Factors

Approx. Funding: \$146,797

THE NETHERLANDS

Maarten Kole, Ph.D.

Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$449,340

“Mechanisms and consequences of synapse elimination in secondary progressive MS and the cuprizone model” Researchers at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience are exploring a strategy for improving learning and memory in secondary progressive MS by addressing damage in a specific area of the brain associated with these functions.

UNITED KINGDOM

Stefano Pluchino, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$289,219

“Characterisation and manipulation of the metabolic pathways driving neuroinflammation” Researchers at the University of Cambridge are studying a type of immune cell and a molecule called succinate made by these cells, and their potential role in nervous system damage in progressive MS.

Don Mahad, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2021

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$169,494

“Targeting mitochondria to protect axons in progressive MS” A team in Scotland is attempting to enhance energy production in nerve cells, in hopes that making these cells more robust will protect them from damage in MS.

David Selwood, Ph.D.

University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 11/23/2015-5/31/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$804,767

“Lead optimisation of a novel MS drug for nerve loss.” Developing novel approaches to stopping nerve tissue damage in people with MS.

David Selwood, Ph.D.

University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 9/1/2016-5/31/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$551,726

“The development of selective ion channel activators for neuroprotection” Developing novel approaches to stopping nerve tissue damage in people with MS.

MS Society UK
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$313,000

“ChariotMS Trial: Cladribine to halt deterioration in people with advanced multiple sclerosis”

Richard Reynolds, Ph.D.

Imperial College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$646,187

“The role of meningeal inflammation induced cytokine signalling and mitochondrial dysfunction in neurodegeneration in progressive MS” Researchers at Imperial College, London, have pinpointed a molecule that may signal nerve cell death, and are investigating how to alter these signals to stop MS progression.

Jeremy Chataway, M.A., Ph.D.

University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2022

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$448,550

“MS-STAT2-MRI” Researchers from University College London are leading a multicenter trial in the UK to test whether a repurposed cholesterol-lowering therapy can slow the course of secondary progressive MS.

MS Society UK,

MS Society UK
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 4/1/2017-6/30/2026

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$1,151,147

“Co-funding for MS-STAT Phase 3 clinical trial of simvastatin in secondary progressive MS by Dr. Jeremy Chataway” Researchers from University College London are leading a multicenter trial in the UK to test whether a repurposed cholesterol-lowering therapy can slow the course of secondary progressive MS.

Margot Woodroffe, Ph.D.

Sheffield Hallam University
Sheffield, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2020

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$134,514

“Lipidomics in progressive MS” Investigators at Sheffield Hallam University are mapping changes in the fatty composition of the brain for clues to finding ways to stop progressive MS.

PROJECTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

Hongwei Qin, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$583,800

“Function of Protein Kinase CK2 in CD4+ T Cells and Autoimmune Disease” Researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham are investigating an immune molecule called CK2 that may be harmful in MS.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 1/1/2017-4/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$235,424

“Training in Physical Activity Promotion for Multiple Sclerosis” Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in MS Rehabilitation Research to provide training in physical activity promotion for MS.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama

Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts

Term: 1/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$363,811

“Project COMPLETE: Coordinated Multiple Sclerosis Exercise Toolkit” Researchers are developing a set of tools to promote physical activity in people with MS, which is expected to reduce disability and improve quality of life.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2014-7/31/2020

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$813,305

“Project BIPAMS: Behavioral Intervention for increasing Physical Activity in MS” University of Alabama, Birmingham researchers are testing an internet-based behavioral intervention with people with MS to increase their physical activity and alleviate symptoms.

Tapan Mehta, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Birmingham, Alabama

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2021

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$54,954

“Open-Label Placebos to Treat Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham are testing the ability of the placebo effect to reduce MS-related fatigue.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Birmingham, Alabama
 Award: Strategic Initiatives
 Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
 Approx. Funding: \$157,644

“Supplemental Funding for MSSC Feinstein Study: Improving Cognition In People With Progressive Multiple Sclerosis: A Multi-Arm, Randomized, Blinded, Sham-Controlled Trial Of Cognitive Rehabilitation And Aerobic Exercise” Supplemental funding to support additional imaging to detect brain plasticity for an international trial comparing the benefits of exercise and cognitive rehabilitation in people with MS and cognitive impairment.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Birmingham, Alabama
 Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
 Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2023

Category: Rehabilitation
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
 Approx. Funding: \$816,557

“Healthy Aging through LifeStyle in Multiple Sclerosis: The HALT MS Research Center”

University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers have joined together to stimulate interdisciplinary research on lifestyle and wellness for healthy aging in MS.

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Birmingham, Alabama
 Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
 Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Rehabilitation
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
 Approx. Funding: \$485,553

“Training in Physical Activity Promotion for Multiple Sclerosis” Rehabilitation researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham have received funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

ARIZONA**Lynn Hudson, Ph.D.**

Critical Path Institute
 Tucson, Arizona
 Award: Strategic Initiatives
 Term: 10/1/2012-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Progression
 Approx. Funding: \$3,000,000

“Qualifying Clinical Outcome Assessments through a Multiple Sclerosis Consortium (MSC)”

Analyzing data from MS clinical trials to develop a more sensitive tool for evaluating the benefits of treatments on clinical symptoms and progression of MS.

CALIFORNIA**Lisa Barcellos, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

University of California, Berkeley
 Berkeley, California
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: Human Genetics
 Strategic Area: End
 Research Priority: Risk Factors
 Approx. Funding: \$636,118

“Identification of Genetic Contributions to Pediatric-Onset MS Using a Multi-Omics Approach”

UC Berkley scientists are studying pediatric MS for insights into the genes and other factors that determine a person's risk for developing MS.

Lilyana Amezcua, M.D., M.S.

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2020

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$685,703

“Acculturation, genetic ancestry, and disability in Hispanic Americans with multiple sclerosis”

Researchers at University of Southern California are spearheading a study to understand socio-cultural factors that impact MS in Hispanics and to provide solutions to prevent disease worsening.

Daniel Kaufman, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$594,348

“Preclinical studies aimed at repurposing a clinically safe drug to help treat MS” Researchers at the University of California are testing a molecule for its ability to limit inflammation in MS, to stop the disease in its tracks and reduce damage.

Michael Robers, M.D.

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“MS Fellowship” A promising doctor at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, will develop the skills involved in the conduct, design, implementation, and analysis of large epidemiological and clinical trials in MS.

Rashed Nagra, Ph.D.

Brentwood Biomedical Research Institute
Los Angeles, California
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 11/1/2009-9/30/2020

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$1,760,112

“Human brain and spinal fluid resource center” Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Eve Kelland, Ph.D.

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2021

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$645,623

“Assessment of the neuroprotective activity of angiotensin 1-7 and its potential role in demyelinating disease” Researchers at the University of Southern California are exploring whether a drug can be repurposed to protect myelin-making cells (oligodendrocytes) from death in MS models.

Alessia Tassoni, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2021

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$127,386

“Disability specific drug discovery for MS: Focus on Vision” Novel technology is allowing a team from UCLA to analyze changes in the optic nerve of MS models, for clues to developing neuroprotective strategies in people with MS.

Funded in part by Richard & Robin Kelly

Christina Azevedo, M.D., M.P.H.

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$465,937

“Disentangling MS-Specific Brain Atrophy from Normal Aging” Researchers at the University of Southern California are identifying a reliable MRI marker that could be used to screen potential therapies for progressive forms of MS.

James Waschek, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$646,510

“Preservation of axon integrity by neural PACAP/PAC1 signaling in a chronic EAE model” A team at UCLA is testing a novel approach for protecting the nervous system from damage in MS.

Medared

Menlo Park, California
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 9/4/2018-6/3/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$330,000

“Humanization of Monoclonal Antibody 5B8 for Neuroprotection in MS” Developing an antibody that has shown promise in preclinical studies as a potential treatment to protect the nervous system from MS damage.

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.

University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$482,270

“Reprogramming proinflammatory responses to increase CXCL1 levels and axon remyelination in EAE” University of California researchers are determining how compounds that connect with estrogen docking sites work to promote repair of nerve-insulating myelin.

Nisarg Shah, Ph.D.

University of California San Diego
San Diego, California
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Promoting T-cell reconstitution after bone marrow transplantation for MS therapy” UC San Diego scientists are testing a way to speed the regeneration of immune system cells after bone marrow transplantation in MS, to improve the ability to fight infection after this procedure.

Jennifer Graves, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California San Diego
San Diego, California
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Association of Senescent Cells with MS progression” Researchers in San Diego are exploring whether cells involved in aging are associated with disease severity in people with MS.

Funded through a collaboration with MS-LINK™, an EMD Serono Signature Initiative

Vipin Kumar, Ph.D.

University of California San Diego
San Diego, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$625,486

“Targeting lysophospholipid-reactive type II NKT cells for potential oral therapeutic in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at the University of California, San Diego are investigating the usefulness of an oral therapy already in use for another purpose for its ability to reduce MS-like disease in a mouse model.

Sergio Baranzini, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$800,898

“The MS Microbiome Consortium (MSMC): an academic multi-disciplinary collaborative effort to elucidate the role of the gut microbiota in MS” With this support to the MS Microbiome Consortium, a multi-center team is conducting a comprehensive analysis of gut bacteria in people with MS to determine factors that may drive progression and help to develop probiotic strategies for stopping progression
2014 Stephen C. Reingold Research Award for most outstanding research proposal

Jennifer Graves, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California San Diego
San Diego, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2018-3/31/2020

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$405,900

“The role of biological aging on progression in MS” Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, are exploring an association between the biological process of aging and the progression of MS, for clues to stopping MS.

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2020

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$595,690

“Establishment of a core DNA repository for multiple sclerosis” Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco are maintaining and enhancing a blood biospecimen bank as a shared resource to identify genetic variants and other factors that contribute to risk and genetic susceptibility in MS.

Kristen Krysko, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,000

“Application for MS Clinical Research Fellowship at UCSF” A promising doctor at the University of California, San Francisco will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Ryan Schubert, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$269,394

“Using comprehensive phage display coupled with next-generation sequencing to define the evolution of autoantibodies and viral antibodies in the two years after a first demyelinating event” Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco are looking for antibody “signatures” in fluid samples that can predict which of those individuals with a first neurological event will go on to develop definite MS.

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Cellular senescence in autoimmune demyelination” A team at UCSF is testing whether aging cells are related to progression of MS-like disease.

Funded through a collaboration with MS-LINK™, an EMD Serono Signature Initiative

Riley Bove, M.D., M.Sc.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$578,720

“Functional validation of SERMs as remyelinating agents” University of California, San Francisco researchers are determining the potential SERMs (selective estrogen receptor modulators) medications for stimulating repair of nerve-insulating myelin.

Roland Henry, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$738,084

“Enabling Multicenter MRI Studies of Neurodegeneration in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco are gathering and standardizing existing MRI and genetic information from people with MS across the globe to accelerate research into progressive MS.

Valerie Block, D.Sc., P.T.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$177,243

“Incorporating Continuous Daily Assessment of Remote Step Count Monitoring with Quantitative Spinal Cord and Brain MRI to Improve Characterization of MS-related Disability” Researchers at the University of California San Francisco are determining whether a person’s average daily step count can be used to measure and track progression of MS disability.

Andrew Mendiola, Ph.D.

The J. David Gladstone Institutes
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$177,243

“In vivo imaging and profiling of mechanisms of T-cell recruitment and activation during neuroinflammatory disease” Researchers at The Gladstone Institutes are investigating how a protein found in the blood called fibrinogen promotes a damaging immune response in MS.

Funded in part by the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund

Zahra Moinfar, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$177,243

“Pathogenic T cells that target NMO autoantigen aquaporin-4” Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco are investigating similarities and differences between MS and a related but distinct disease called NMO.

Myriam Chaumeil, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2021

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$566,618

“MR metabolic imaging of Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco are developing an imaging method to assess inflammation in the brain to develop new approaches to stopping MS.

Stephen Hauser, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$1,375,000

“SUMMIT: An investigation of deeply phenotyped cohorts to understand disease outcomes and the biology of progression in MS” SUMMIT (Serially Unified Multicenter Multiple Sclerosis Investigation) establishes an open research platform for identifying factors that influence the course of MS, with the goal of predicting and preventing progression.

Emmanuelle Waubant, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2021

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$1,192,799

“Diet and relapse risk in pediatric multiple sclerosis (MS)” Investigators at University of California, San Francisco are leading the Network of Pediatric MS Centers in a study of how kids’ diets impact MS relapses and progression.

Averil Ma, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$658,766

“Ubiquitin Mediated Prevention of Multiple Sclerosis” A UCSF team is testing whether changes to a potent inflammation-reducing protein contribute to the onset of MS-like disease in mice, for clues to developing new therapies to stop MS.

Stephen Fancy, D.V.M., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award Scholarships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$776,123

“Oligodendroglial-vascular interactions control successful remyelination in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers from the University of California at San Francisco are exploring interactions between blood vessels and myelin-making cells for clues to promoting myelin repair in MS.

Funded in part by the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund

Sasha Gupta, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$136,408

“Use of anti-CD19 CAR-T cells in treatment of CNS autoimmune demyelinating disease in mouse model” A UCSF team is testing a therapy used to target immune B cells in cancer for clues to whether this treatment can slow or prevent disease progression in MS lab models.

Adil Harroud, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$201,697

“The genetic basis of progression in multiple sclerosis” UCSF researchers are analyzing 10,000 DNA samples from people over age 55 who have had MS for at least 10 years to determining the role of genes connected to obesity may play a role in MS progression.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufer Family

Joseph Sabatino, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$61,875

“Characterization of myelin-reactive CD8+ T cells in Multiple Sclerosis” UCSF researchers are analyzing immune cell types in blood samples from people with MS and other neurologic diseases to determine if unique cell populations drive the immune response in MS.

Hengameh Shams, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$123,278

“Characterization of the interplay between T and B lymphocytes in multiple sclerosis using functional proteomics” A UCSF team is using advanced technology to study links between immune function and disease status in people with MS, for clues to the key molecular events that underlie disease initiation and response to treatment.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufer Family

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$830,156

“The role of Ataxin1 in autoimmune demyelination” A team at UCSF is seeking to understand the contribution of a gene known as “ATXN1” to MS risk and clinical course.

Wan-Yu Hsu, O.T.R., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$209,702

“Effects of non-invasive brain stimulation on cognitive function in patients with multiple sclerosis” UCSF researchers are investigating the potential benefits of non-invasive brain stimulation, called transcranial alternating current stimulation, to treat cognitive deficits in people with MS.

Milos Simic, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$196,309

“Development of cellular immunotherapies for multiple sclerosis” A UCSF team engineering immune cells as a strategy to deliver a payload to the nervous system to decrease damaging immune activity and provide healing growth factors.

Riley Bove, M.D., M.Sc.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award Scholarships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$708,972

“Trials for remyelination in MS: from bench to bedside to home” UCSF researchers are testing a novel molecule that may repair myelin in women with MS ages 45-60, using a home-based trial that employs digital tools to measure improvements during the study.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Annexon Biosciences

South San Francisco, California
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 1/1/2017-4/1/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$650,813

“Identification of CSF Biomarkers to Establish Target Engagement and Dosing for a Novel MS Therapeutic” Validating the applicability of a new neuroprotective compound to prevent or delay neurodegeneration in progressive MS.

Nina Bozinov, M.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“Training fellowship in clinical MS/Neuroimmunology and Master's Degree in Epidemiology & Clinical Research. Project in imaging and immunopathologic biomarkers of cognitive impairment in Multiple Sclerosis.” A promising doctor at Stanford University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Erin Gibson, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$49,999

“Determining the effects of circadian rhythms in oligodendrocyte lineage cell dynamics with age in multiple sclerosis” Stanford scientists are exploring whether alterations in circadian rhythms in MS-like disease contributes to a failure in the natural capacity for myelin repair.

Funded through a collaboration with MS-LINK™, an EMD Serono Signature Initiative

Yang Hu, M.D., Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: CNS Repair

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$77,773

“Combined Neuronal Soma and Axon Protection by Manipulation of Both ER Stress and NAD+ Metabolism in EAE/Optic Neuritis” Researchers at Stanford University are using a strategy of combination therapy in a mouse model of MS to protect the nervous system from a type of damage that occurs in MS.

William Talbot, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$333,654

“Role of RagA in Lysosome Function and Myelination in Oligodendrocytes” Researchers at Stanford University are investigating two genes that affect the growth of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to finding ways to repair myelin in people with MS.

Elaine Su, M.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“Neuroimmunology Fellowship with Training in Epidemiology and Clinical Research” Under the mentorship of Drs. Jeffrey Dunn and Lorene Nelson, Dr. Elaine Su at Stanford will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Jamie McDonald, M.D., M.S.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“Clinical Research Fellowship at Stanford University Multiple Sclerosis Center” A promising doctor at Stanford will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Mariapaola Sidoli, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$188,067

“A new approach to analyze cAMP in oligodendrocyte development and myelination” Stanford University researchers are analyzing a specific signal in the brain that induces the formation of myelin, for clues to harnessing the signal as therapeutic target to promote myelin repair in MS.

J. Bradley Zuchero, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2023

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$772,639

“How does the actin cytoskeleton control myelination and remyelination?” Stanford University researchers are investigating how scaffold-like structures inside cells change during the formation of myelin, for clues to stimulating myelin repair in MS.

Athena Soulika, Ph.D.

University of California, Davis
W. Sacramento, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$652,581

“Novel lipid-mediated mechanism controls oligodendrocyte maturation” Investigators at the University of California, Davis, are exploring a new strategy for repairing nerve-insulating myelin and restoring function in MS.

COLORADO

John Corboy, M.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2020

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$1,370,230

“Rocky Mountain MS Center Tissue Bank” Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Ethan Hughes, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$586,687

“Mechanisms and Dynamics of Cortical Remyelination” Researchers at the University of Colorado are investigating methods to improve and visualize repair of nerve-insulating myelin, ultimately to restore function for people with MS.

Funded in part by a private foundation

John Corboy, M.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Strategic Initiatives - 2016
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$326,464

“Discontinuation of Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs) in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – co-funding with Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI)” A trial to determine if and when MS therapies should be discontinued.

Gregory Owens, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$705,938

“Mechanisms of CNS injury in MS antibody-mediated demyelination” Researchers at the University of Colorado are investigating how antibodies found in the cerebrospinal fluid of people with MS cause MS-like damage in mice, and the implications for treating MS.

Frank Dinunno, Ph.D.

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,844

“Impaired regulation of skeletal muscle blood flow during exercise in people with multiple sclerosis exhibiting autonomic cardiovascular dysfunction” To determine whether reduced muscle blood flow is a potential cause of lower exercise capacity in people with MS.

Brett Fling, Ph.D.

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$752,710

“Split-belt treadmill training in the lab and sensory cueing in the real world to reduce limb asymmetries and improve gait” Colorado State specialists are studying whether a rehabilitation program that specifically addresses asymmetries that may exist between legs can improve walking in people with MS.

CONNECTICUT

Stephen Crocker, Ph.D.

University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Does Central Nervous System Myelination Impact Bladder Function?” UConn Health researchers are investigating the link between bladder problems in MS and the loss of myelin in the brain, for clues to better addressing both issues.

Joel Pachter, Ph.D.

University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$671,350

“Extracellular vesicles and MSCs as novel tools to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of secondary progressive disease” Investigators at the University of Connecticut Health Center are exploring the therapeutic potential of stem cells and a novel method of tracking the course of secondary progressive MS in mice.

Yanjiao Zhou, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Infectious Agents
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Investigating the intestinal virome in patients with multiple sclerosis” UConn Health researchers are investigating intestinal viruses in MS and how they may interact with gut bacteria, to inform the development of microbiome-based therapeutics.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufser Family

Stephen Crocker, Ph.D.

University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$608,036

“Cellular Senescence in Neural Progenitor Cells Limits CNS Remyelination” University of Connecticut investigators are exploring the reasons why repair of nerve-insulating myelin in MS can fail, and seeking ways to reverse the problem to restore function.

Elizabeth Gromisch, Ph.D.

Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital
Hartford, Connecticut
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,470

“Development of a Risk Factor Model for Self-Management Skills among Persons with Multiple Sclerosis” Mount Sinai researchers are looking at factors that may impede self management to improve quality of life for people with MS.

David Hafler, M.D.,M.S.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2020

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$825,000

“Collaborative MS Research Center Award: Systematic Genome Editing of the Risk Variants in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Yale, Harvard, and two University of California institutions have teamed up to apply highly advanced technology to manipulate MS risk genes to tease out the exact pathways by which MS develops.

David Pitt, M.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Identifying macrophage/microglia and astroglial phenotypes and their interactions in MS lesions.” Yale scientists are using cutting-edge imaging techniques to study the role of different cells in the immune attack on brain tissues in people with MS.

Liliana Lucca, Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$178,467

“The role of the co-inhibitory receptor TIGIT in the immune deregulation of MS patients”

Investigators at Yale University are testing the idea that a molecule called TIGIT, which is present on certain immune cells, turns down inflammation in healthy people but is unable to dampen inflammation in people with MS.

David Hafler, M.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$825,000

“Longitudinal, single-cell assessment to define the mechanism of B cell depletion therapy in

Multiple Sclerosis” Yale University researchers are investigating the role of immune B cells in MS and what happens to the immune system in people with MS who are taking B cell-depleting therapies.

Matthew Lincoln, M.D., Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$412,500

“Genetic and molecular heterogeneity of MS” A team at Yale is seeking to fine tune MS genetic studies using a novel framework that combines MS genetics data with similar data from related diseases, for insight into disease mechanisms and possible gene regulation.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Akiko Nishiyama, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$610,077

“Neuronal activity-dependent regulation of remyelination and chromatin remodeling” Researchers from the University of Connecticut and University of Paris are using cutting-edge technology to explore a novel possibility for restoring damaged nerve-insulating myelin.

WASHINGTON, D.C.**Jeffrey Huang, Ph.D.**

Georgetown University
Washington, District of Columbia
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$758,839

“Amino acid induced microglia/macrophage-OPC crosstalk in CNS remyelination” A Georgetown team is exploring the role of a specific molecule that appears to be very active when myelin damage occurs, for clues to developing a strategy that curtails its activity and promotes myelin repair.

FLORIDA

Aaron Carlson, M.D.

University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Epidemiology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Risk Factors

Approx. Funding: \$54,313

“Prevalence and Demographics of Multiple Sclerosis in the OneFlorida Data Trust” A team at the University of Florida is using an extensive database to study people with MS and MS care in that state.

Hong Jiang, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Miami
Miami, Florida

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$540,835

“The role of retinal microvascular impairment on neurodegeneration in Multiple Sclerosis”

University of Miami researchers are studying blood vessels at the back of the eye of people with MS to better understand nerve damage and MS progression.

GEORGIA

Feng Yang, Ph.D.

Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$54,483

“Adaptive motor learning of fall resistance skills through slip exposure in multiple sclerosis” Georgia State researchers are testing whether training people with MS with controlled falling experiences can build skills around how to react against fall situations to prevent them.

Gelareh Sadigh, M.D.

Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Pilot Feasibility Study of Out-of-Pocket Cost Communication and Supportive Financial Services for Reducing Financial Toxicity Among Multiple Sclerosis Patients” Emory investigators are exploring whether a cost information program can decrease financial burden and increase compliance with care in people with MS.

Deborah Backus, P.T., Ph.D.

Shepherd Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 7/1/2019-1/31/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$137,500

“Comparative Effectiveness of an Exercise Intervention Delivered via Telerehabilitation and Conventional Mode of Delivery” The Society is supporting an extension to measure results of a clinical trial at seven centers, funded by PCORI, to compare the effectiveness of a supervised exercise program done at home or in person in people with MS.

Elizabeth Hubbard, Ph.D.

BERRY COLLEGE

Mount Berry, Georgia

Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,996

“Feasibility and efficacy of a high-intensity interval training program in persons with multiple sclerosis who have walking impairment” Researchers at Berry College are looking at the impact of individualized arm and leg exercise regimens on movement, fatigue, depression and other symptoms in people with mobility impairments.

ILLINOIS

Aditi Das, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois

Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Anti-inflammatory endocannabinoids as potential MS therapeutics” Exploring a strategy for stopping the immune attack using a naturally occurring molecule similar to cannabis.

Brynn Adamson, M.S., Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois

Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$36,974

“MOVE MS: Group Exercise Program” Researchers at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign are testing a novel community-based exercise program that may help to increase physical activity in people who have MS.

Laura Rice, Ph.D., P.T.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois

Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$570,217

“Validation of a Fall Prevention Program Among Non-Ambulatory Wheeled Mobility Device Users with Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are developing a program designed to help prevent falling for people with MS who are wheelchair users.

Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery

Chung-Yi Chiu, C.R.C., Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$548,359

“Developing A Person-centered Internet-based Health Action Process Approach to Promoting Physical Activity in People with Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at the University of Illinois are testing a program aimed at increasing physical activity among people with MS to promote healthier lifestyles.
Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery

Andrew Steelman, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$566,732

“Upper-respiratory infection, glial activation and disease exacerbation” Researchers at the University of Illinois are exploring how upper respiratory infections may trigger MS attacks, by studying immune reactions to infection in mice with an MS-like disease.
Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$424,446

“Cognitive Motor Interference Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis” Experienced mentors/researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are training promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.
Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery

Steven Roth, M.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Stopping Multiple Sclerosis with Functionally Engineered Exosomes (FEEs)” University of Illinois researchers are engineering a novel approach to reducing damaging inflammation in the brain to prevent damage to nerve tissues in a model of MS.

Charles Abrams, M.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2021

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$136,115

“Role of Connexin 47 in oligodendrocytes” University of Illinois researchers are developing a new model for studying strategies for reducing MS severity.
Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery

Brian Popko, Ph.D.

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$718,842

“ZFP24 Control of the myelination program of oligodendrocytes” University of Chicago scientists are exploring molecules that may play a key role in the development and function of myelin-making cells, for clues to promoting myelin repair in MS.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufser Family

Dominique Kinnett-Hopkins, Ph.D.

Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2020

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$58,476

“Disease characteristics and healthcare utilization patterns in advantaged and disadvantaged patients with multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Northwestern are examining how people with MS access healthcare and if residing in a disadvantaged area, racial identity, and distance to medical services impact their use of the healthcare system.

Igal Ifergan, M.Sc., Ph.D.

Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Induction of immunoregulatory microglia by the Wnt pathway during neuroinflammation”

Northwestern University scientists are exploring cell interactions in the brain in search of molecular triggers for promoting natural myelin repair.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufser Family

IOWA

Terry Wahls, M.D.

The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2016-6/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$1,098,981

“Dietary Approaches to Treating Multiple Sclerosis Related Fatigue” A team at the University of Iowa is comparing two dietary approaches to determine their effectiveness for treating MS-related fatigue.

Sterling Ortega, Ph.D.

The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“The neuro-reparative role of myelin-specific CD8 T-cells in EAE recovery” A team at the University of Iowa is studying a unique population of immune cells that may help reverse nervous system damage in MS.

MARYLAND

Pavan Bhargava, M.B.B.S., M.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$355,455

“Bile acid supplementation for Multiple Sclerosis” Johns Hopkins researchers are investigating whether a dietary supplement can be beneficial for the immune system, gut bacteria and MS disease activity.

Shiv Saidha, M.B.B.S., M.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$494,401

“In-vivo investigation of trans-synaptic neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are testing new methods of assessing nerve cell damage, involving the visual system, to determine its value for predicting more severe MS.

Barbara Slusher, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$654,166

“Development of 2-PMPA prodrugs for the treatment of cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are developing versions of a promising compound for possible use in improving cognitive function in MS.

Jeff Bulte, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“OnVDMP CEST MRI Detection of Primary CNS Metabolites as a Novel Imaging Biomarker for EAE Disease Progression” Johns Hopkins researchers are testing a novel method of imaging molecules in the spinal cord that may link to disease course in MS.

Muhammad Taimur Malik, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“MS Clinical Trials Fellowship” A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.C.R.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$781,377

“A pilot study of intermittent calorie restriction in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore are doing a pilot trial testing the safety and tolerability of a diet that intermittently restricts calorie intake as a treatment for disease activity in people with MS.

Elias Sotirchos, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,000

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship” A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Abbey Hughes, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,973

“Reducing depression and anxiety in individuals with MS and their caregivers: An emotion regulation skills training intervention” Testing the efficacy of a unique group-based therapy for improving emotion regulation in people with MS and their carepartners.

Meghan Beier, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 4/1/2017-12/31/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$242,512

“Advancing multiple sclerosis research through neuroscience” This training program will equip two fellows with crucial clinical and research skills necessary to conduct rehabilitation research aimed at improving wellness for people with MS.

Guanshu Liu, Ph.D.

Hugo W. Moser Research Institute at Kennedy Krieger, Inc.
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Quantification of BBB Opening using Dextran-enhanced MRI as a Biomarker of EAE Progression” Baltimore researchers are testing a novel imaging method to determine if it can evaluate the extent to which immune factors are permitted to enter the brain in an MS model.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Darren Perkins, Ph.D.

University of Maryland, Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Enhancement of STING dependent type I interferon production in microglia during MS associated inflammation through inhibition of a novel STING negative regulatory pathway” Maryland scientists are testing whether a therapy already in clinical trials can be applied to the immune attacks that occur in MS.

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.C.R.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2011-3/31/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$1,728,703

“A randomized controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation in multiple sclerosis” A clinical trial investigating whether vitamin D supplements can alter disease activity in people with MS who are taking a standard therapy.

Funded by a gift from the National MS Society Greater Delaware Valley Chapter

Pavan Bhargava, M.B.B.S., M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2016-6/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$457,540

“Targeting Leptomeningeal Inflammation for Progressive Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are working to establish a better model of progressive MS that will permit research into understanding and treating inflammation of the meninges, the tissue that covers the brain.

Emily Harrington, M.D., Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$276,697

“The role of oligodendrocyte progenitors as immune cells in MS models” Johns Hopkins researchers are observing interactions between the immune system and myelin making cells for clues to stopping myelin loss and promoting myelin repair.

Yevgeniya Mironova, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$181,754

“Non-progenitor functions of oligodendrocyte precursor cells in the brain” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are studying how oligodendrocyte precursor cells in the adult brain play multiple roles in repair of myelin damage.

Jiwon Oh, MD, PhD

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$500,000

“Leptomeningeal Inflammation in Multiple Sclerosis: A Prospective MRI Study” Johns Hopkins University researchers are exploring a novel imaging finding that may yield clues to understanding and stopping the progression of MS.

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.C.R.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$534,669

“Traditional versus Early Aggressive Therapy for Multiple Sclerosis (TREAT-MS)” The Society is leveraging PCORI-funded clinical trials to support an MS biobank as a shared resource for researchers searching for biomarkers that will help elucidate predictors of long-term disability and treatment response.

Bardia Nourbakhsh, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$397,249

“Evaluating the effects of short-term B-cell depletion on long-term disease activity and immune tolerance in relapsing multiple sclerosis” Johns Hopkins researchers are exploring the longer-term impacts of short-term use of B-cell depleting therapy on the immune system and MS disease activity.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, D.Sc., M.Sc.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Epidemiology

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$412,500

“The Melanopsin Pathway, Changes to Brain Structure and Depression in People with Multiple Sclerosis” Because depression is common in MS, Johns Hopkins researchers are looking for early signs of brain and eye changes that may signal depression, for clues to identifying and preventing this symptom.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Peter Calabresi, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$Pending

“Validation of Serum Neurofilament Light Chain as a Biomarker in Multiple Sclerosis:Subtypes and controls” Johns Hopkins researchers are determining whether blood levels of a neurofilament, released when nerves are damaged, can be validated as a blood test to monitor MS and predict its course.

Peter Calabresi, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$817,067

“Mechanisms of complement component 3 mediated neurodegeneration in MS and EAE” Johns Hopkins researchers are exploring sex differences in specific immune activity and whether blocking it has potential for protecting the nervous system in MS.

Daniela Pimentel Maldonado, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,500

“Fellowship Training in Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Trials” A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Abbey Hughes, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$447,216

“Advancing Psychosocial Wellness in Multiple Sclerosis Through Mentored Training in Rehabilitation Research” Rehabilitation researchers at Johns Hopkins have received funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

Elias Sotirchos, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$550,000

“Prediction of risk of disability worsening and inflammatory disease activity in MS utilizing multimodal predictive algorithms” Johns Hopkins University researchers are studying multiple factors in large numbers of people with MS to provide insight into which factors are associated with a more severe disease course.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Dzung Pham, Ph.D.

Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$576,675

“Imaging Biomarker Discovery With Advanced Brain Segmentation Algorithms” Researchers at the National Institutes of Health are developing software tools to automatically measure MRI-detected brain lesions in MS to improve diagnosis and clinical trials.

Chuan Wu, M.D., Ph.D.

National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$375,000

“High salt diet influences the development of autoimmunity via inducible salt sensing kinase SGK1”
How might dietary salt influence the behavior of immune cells in MS?

David Scott, Ph.D.

Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$485,942

“Engineering human CNS-specific T regulatory cells” Researchers at the Uniformed Services University are investigating a way to specifically turn off components of the immune system that are harmful in people with MS.

Dzung Pham, Ph.D.

Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$626,875

“Harmonizing of Heterogeneous MRI Data in MS” Henry M. Jackson scientists are developing tools that will enable the pooling of MRI images to enhance understanding of MS and to track changes in an individual's MS over time.

Omar Al-Louzi, M.D.

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2023

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$276,697

“Characterizing the central vein sign in multiple sclerosis using advanced magnetic resonance imaging techniques and pathology correlations” NIH imaging specialists are using advanced MRI techniques to determine whether a central blood vessel in brain lesions (areas of damage) can distinguish MS from similar disorders, and thus expedite the process of diagnosing MS.

Erin Beck, M.D., Ph.D.

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$601,176

“Evolution of cortical pathology and its relation to meningeal inflammation in multiple sclerosis”

NIH researchers are using advanced imaging to look at specific areas of damage in the brains of people with MS that are linked with progression, for clues to developing treatments that can stop the disease.

Funded in part by Daniel and Anita Schwab

MASSACHUSETTS

Richard Van Emmerik, Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 3/1/2019-2/28/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,973

“Tai Chi and Mindfulness Training to Improve Postural Control and Quality of Life in People with Multiple Sclerosis: A Community-Based Intervention Study” UMass researchers are testing Tai Chi and Mindfulness Meditation training for their ability to improve balance in people with MS.

Tanuja Chitnis, M.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Contracts
Term: 10/1/2015-3/31/2021

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$492,718

“Patient-family views on pediatric MS research needs, outcomes, and methods” Researchers at Harvard Medical School are gathering opinions about research priorities related to pediatric MS from parents of children and teenagers with MS, and adults with pediatric-onset MS.

Sarah Minden, M.D.

Gryphon Scientific
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Contracts
Term: 5/1/2018-4/30/2020

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$411,387

“What is the extent to which people with MS utilize complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)?” Investigators at Gryphon Scientific and collaborators are launching an extensive effort to understand complementary and alternative medicine use in MS.

Caterina Mainero, M.D., Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“In vivo imaging of fibrin deposition in multiple sclerosis by ⁶⁴Cu-FBP8 MR-PET” A team at Massachusetts General Hospital is testing the ability of advanced technology to determine the role of a blood protein in causing damage to nerve tissue and inflammation in people with MS.

Onur Afacan, Ph.D.

Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$51,990

“Improved cortical lesion detection with high field MRI in Pediatric Onset Multiple Sclerosis patients” Boston Children's Hospital researchers are testing novel MR scanning and analysis techniques to improve the ability to non-invasively diagnose and monitor MS in children.

Farah Mateen, M.D., Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Electronic Pill Bottle Monitoring to Promote Medication Adherence for People with MS” Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital are testing if an electronic pill bottle cap can monitor and remind people with MS about taking their medications.

Nikos Patsopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“In-depth multi-omic characterization of lesion and lesion-free brain tissue” Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital testing the use of cutting-edge technologies to study brain cell mechanisms to understand MS.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufser Family

Kevin Hodgetts, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 11/1/2018-11/1/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$318,170

“Development of an Improved Etifoxine Analog for the Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital are creating and evaluating chemical cousins of an anti-anxiety drug to develop a therapy that can slow MS disease activity and promote repair.

Funded in part by Richard & Robin Kelly

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance -
Collaborative Network Center
Term: 1/1/2017-12/23/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$4,000,000

“Development of a drug discovery pipeline for progressive MS” Identifying candidates with neuroprotective and/or myelin repair activity to speed the search for treatments for progressive MS.

Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members; Funded in full by an Anonymous Donor

Sarah Minden, M.D.

Gryphon Scientific
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Contracts
Term: 10/1/2013-12/31/2020

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$44,408

“Sonya Slifka Longitudinal Multiple Sclerosis Study Phase III” Analyzing and making available data from people with MS to answer a wide range questions about issues faced by people living with MS.

Eric Klawiter, M.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Neurologic Music Therapy to Improve Gait Dysfunction in Multiple Sclerosis” Massachusetts General researchers are testing a method of walking to a beat or music to see if it improves walking in people with MS.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Dan Hu, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Characterization of heat shock proteins in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital are exploring the role of specific proteins in the immune activity that underlies MS, for clues to developing new therapies.

Nikos Patsopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$599,277

“Sex specific genetics of multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital are analyzing large sets of genetic data to identify genes that explain why women are more susceptible to MS than men. *Funded in part by the CFMS Foundation and the Al Otaiba Family*

Howard Weiner, M.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$551,752

“The role of fecal microRNAs in CNS autoimmune inflammatory disease” Researchers at Harvard Medical School are investigating a type of molecule called microRNA that is found in the gut and that may someday be a treatment for MS.

Amir-Hadi Maghzi, M.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$206,246

“Investigation of the microbiome in multiple sclerosis and its relationship to immunologic and clinical features of disease” Investigators are researching gut bacteria in MS and its relationship to immune activity and other features of the disease.

Caterina Mainero, M.D., Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$916,046

“Multimodal imaging of neuroinflammation and its contribution to cortical demyelination and regeneration in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital are developing methods to monitor cells called microglia that likely play a role in myelin repair in people with MS.

Howard Weiner, M.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$1,375,000

“SUMMIT: An investigation of deeply phenotyped cohorts to understand disease outcomes and the biology of progression in MS” SUMMIT (Serially Unified Multicenter Multiple Sclerosis Investigation) establishes an open research platform for identifying factors that influence the course of MS, with the goal of predicting and preventing progression.

Clare Baecher-Allan, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$625,788

“Are CD20+ T cells dysfunctional in Multiple Sclerosis?” A team at Brigham and Women’s Hospital is studying blood samples from people with MS to determine whether a novel set of immune cells drives MS, for clues to developing a therapeutic strategy for stopping the disease.

Jacob Sloane, M.D., Ph.D.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$218,605

“Role of sleep apnea in MS fatigue and disability” Researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center are exploring the prevalence of sleep apnea in people with MS and whether treating apnea can reduce MS-related fatigue.

Chao Wang, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$412,500

“Regulation of TH17 cell function by CD5Like” Researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston are exploring how a recently discovered molecule may be used to develop a strategy for stopping the immune attack in MS in its tracks.

John Chen, M.D., Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$764,936

“Targeting the ubiquitous oxidative aldehyde acrolein in MS” Massachusetts General researchers are testing advanced imaging to track changes in MS disease activity, and test a novel treatment strategy targeting inflammation and oxidative stress.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufer Family

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$642,070

“Molecular control of astrocytes in CNS inflammation” Brigham and Women’s researchers are seeking to identify a role for “astrocyte” brain cells in MS progression, for clues to stopping progression in its tracks.

Murugaiyan Gopal, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$590,743

“The pathogenic role of miR-92a in the regulation of T helper cell responses in MS” A Brigham and Women's Hospital team is exploring the role of a molecule linked to harmful immune activity, and whether inhibiting it has promise for treating MS.

Howard Weiner, M.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$778,164

“The role of B cells in CNS autoimmunity” A team at Brigham and Women's Hospital is exploring subsets of immune B cells and their contribution to MS onset and disease activity.

Mary Catanese, Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$196,309

“In vivo neuroimaging of histone deacetylases in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Mass General are using imaging to explore the role of a protein in MS-related damage to the nervous system, for clues to developing better therapies.

Nikos Patsopoulos, M.D., Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Risk Factors
Approx. Funding: \$779,428

“Omic-based precision medicine strategies in multiple sclerosis” MS genetics researchers at Brigham & Women's Hospital are using data from more than 100,000 people with MS to determine whether they can refine “genetic risk scores” so that these can be used to truly predict who may develop MS.

Elena Herranz Muelas, Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$604,628

“Novel imaging tools for assessing spinal cord inflammatory activity in vivo in multiple sclerosis, its clinical relevance and correlation with brain pathology” Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital are applying novel imaging technology to study the spinal cord in people in the early stages of MS.

Robert McBurney, Ph.D.

Accelerated Cure Project for MS
Waltham, Massachusetts
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$1,014,881

“Pathways to Cures Project Collaboration” Collaborating with iConquerMS patient powered platform to gain input on research priorities and impacts.

Liisa Selin, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: End
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“EBV-specific CD8+T cell response in multiple sclerosis” A team at the University of Massachusetts is studying the immune cell responses to the Epstein-Barr virus in people with MS to determine whether these responses contribute to the development of MS.

Christopher Hemond, M.D.

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 3/1/2019-2/28/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$52,930

“The role of memory B-cells in multiple sclerosis pathology and disease monitoring” A team at UMass is investigating a specific subset of immune cells that may characterize highly inflammatory disease activity in people with MS.

Sebastian Werneburg, M.Sc., Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$595,418

“Molecular Dissection of Neural Circuit Disassembly by Reactive Glia in Demyelinating Disease” A team at UMass is studying the fate of synapses -- the points of communication between two nerve cells -- throughout the course of MS.

MICHIGAN

Tiffany Braley, M.D.

Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2021

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$827,967

“A randomized trial of positive airway pressure therapy to treat cognitive dysfunction in MS patients with obstructive sleep apnea” University of Michigan researchers will determine whether a commonly used treatment for sleep apnea could improve cognitive performance in people with MS who also have sleep apnea.

Anna Kratz, Ph.D.

Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$421,202

“Training to Advance Rehabilitation Research in Multiple Sclerosis” Experienced mentors/researchers at the University of Michigan are training promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

Shailendra Giri, Ph.D.

Henry Ford Health System
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Physiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$577,673

“Impaired DHA metabolism in multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Henry Ford Health System are looking at whether people with MS have abnormalities in their ability to process polyunsaturated fatty acids -- dietary components that may fight inflammation.

MINNESOTA

Ben Clarkson, Ph.D.

Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$184,654

“Role of ISGylation in MS Synaptopathy” Researchers at the Mayo Clinic are investigating a process called “ISGylation” that may play a role in the cognitive problems experienced by many people with MS.

Isobel Scarisbrick, Ph.D.

Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Regulatory Role of Kallikrein 6 in Myelin Integrity and Regeneration in the Adult CNS” Mayo Clinic scientists are investigating the role of a protein in the repair of nerve-insulating myelin, and how to promote repair to speed recovery for people with MS.

Claudia Lucchinetti, M.D.

Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2021

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$825,000

“Metabolic Dysfunction in MS Pathogenesis and Disease Progression: The Donald C. McGraw Foundation Collaborative MS Research Center” A multi-center team at Mayo Clinic is taking a novel approach to studying nerve cells and possible ways to protect them from injury in MS and stopping MS progression.

Funded by the Donald C. McGraw Foundation

Isobel Scarisbrick, Ph.D.

Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$740,036

“Protease Activated Receptor Targets for Myelin Regeneration” A Mayo Clinic team is exploring whether specific molecules can be “switched off” to promote nervous system repair in MS.

Monica Langley, Ph.D.

Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$196,309

“Targeting CD38 to Enhance Myelin Regeneration Following Diet-induced Mitochondrial Deficits”

Mayo Clinic scientists are looking at the consumption of high fat diet as a risk factor and/or modifier of disease progression in an MS model.

MISSOURI

David Schulz, Ph.D.

University of Missouri-Columbia
Columbia, Missouri
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Effects of central demyelination on properties of bladder innervating neurons and bladder function” Understanding the underlying changes in the bladder and bladder circuitry that can cause bladder symptoms in people with MS.

Jared Bruce, Ph.D.

University of Missouri - Kansas City
Kansas City, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$203,382

“Development of a telehealth obesity intervention for patients with MS” A team at the University of Missouri is taking initial steps to develop a phone-delivered weight loss program for people with MS, to see if weight loss improves MS symptoms.

Jared Bruce, Ph.D.

University of Missouri - Kansas City
Kansas City, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2024

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$756,059

“Development of a telehealth obesity intervention for patients with MS (continued)” A University of Missouri team is testing the effectiveness of an MS-specific weigh loss/healthy living program delivered by phone, since obesity can profoundly worsen MS severity.

Naresha Saligrama, Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$412,500

“Understanding T cell receptor diversity and specificity in Multiple sclerosis and Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis” A Stanford team is using advanced technologies to analyze a novel set of immune cells in people with MS during relapses, remissions and after treatment, for clues to what activates and sustains the immune response in MS.

Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$767,244

“Cerebrospinal fluid-biomarkers-based diagnostic and prognostic models for Multiple Sclerosis”
Washington University researchers are using powerful technology to measure spinal fluid proteins to develop biomarker profiles to predict MS course and response to treatments.

Claudia Cantoni, Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$589,886

“MiR-223: a new potential therapeutic target to modulate myeloid cells in multiple sclerosis”
Researchers at Washington University are exploring the possibility that a subset of immune cells in the blood may be impaired in MS, for clues to how these cells might be manipulated to suppress disease activity.

Afsaneh Shirani, M.D.

University of Nebraska Medical Center
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$100,078

“Predicting clinical progression in multiple sclerosis patients using a novel imaging biomarker targeted at differentiating and quantifying the underlying pathologies” Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine are developing a new type of brain imaging to allow detection and prediction of different types of damage that occur in people with MS.

Sheng-Kwei Song, Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$648,976

“How Does Optic Neuritis Impact Nerve Function and Its Assessment?” Researchers at The Hope Center at Washington University in St. Louis are developing a method to specifically image damage to the optic nerve to better understand MS disease processes.

Amber Salter, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 9/1/2019-10/31/2020

“Metadata Catalogue Project” A WashU team is aiming to establish a metadata catalogue and to increase the feasibility of harmonizing disability measures across registries.

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$113,691

Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2021

“Randomized controlled trial of intermittent fasting in multiple sclerosis” Investigators at Washington University in St. Louis are conducting a clinical trial comparing intermittent fasting with a normal western diet in people with MS.

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$777,853

Robyn Klein, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

“Interferon lambda as a biomarker and target for Diseases Progression in MS” Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine are investigating the role of a molecule called interferon lambda in progressive forms of MS.

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$736,586

Gregory Wu, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

“Formation of ectopic lymphoid tissue in autoimmune encephalomyelitis and MS” Washington University researchers are exploring a novel feature of the immune system that may prevent therapies that target immune B cells from being effective in some people with progressive MS, for clues to better management of MS progression.

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$519,551

John Ciotti, M.D.

Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2022

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship” A promising doctor at Washington University in St. Louis will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$130,000

Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D.

Saint Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$756,301

“Dendritic cells-orchestrated and Hopx-mediated homeostasis of regulatory T cells blocking autoimmune neuroinflammation” Scientists at Saint Louis University are exploring the mechanisms by which certain cells can regulate immune attacks in MS, for clues to developing targeted therapies to stop MS.

Laura Ghezzi, M.D.

Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$209,702

“Characterization and quantification of Mucosal Associated Invariant T cells in patients with Multiple Sclerosis at time of diagnosis and in response to different disease modifying therapies”

Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis are exploring how diet and the gut microbiota may regulate the number and function of a specific type of immune cell.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Biao Xiang, Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$185,284

“Using a Novel MRI technique - Simultaneous Multi-Angular Relaxometry of Tissue - to Measure Evolution of tissue damage in Progressive Multiple Sclerosis” Investigators at Washington U are testing the ability of an imaging technique to detect and track progressive MS.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Heather Wishart, Ph.D.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic
Lebanon, New Hampshire

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$255,008

“Cognitive evaluation in MS: Expanding clinical research potential through the validation of an online testing battery” Researchers at the Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth are testing the feasibility of administering cognitive testing online, to improve the process of evaluating cognitive changes in large-scale studies in MS.

NEW JERSEY

Joshua Sandry, Ph.D.

Montclair State University

Montclair, New Jersey

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$200,783

“Neuroimaging of Hippocampally Mediated Memory Dysfunction in Multiple Sclerosis” Montclair State University researchers are measuring memory-related abilities in individuals with and without MS for clues to how such cognitive processes change in MS.

Joshua Sandry, Ph.D.

Montclair State University

Montclair, New Jersey

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2023

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$530,836

“Neuroimaging of Hippocampally Mediated Memory Dysfunction in Multiple Sclerosis (continued)” A team at Montclair State is exploring changes in brain structure that underlie memory and cognitive problems in people with MS.

Evan Cohen, P.T., Ph.D.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Piscataway, New Jersey

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 3/1/2019-2/28/2021

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$52,100

“Interval vs. continuous walking training for people with multiple sclerosis: a comparison of effectiveness” Rutgers researchers are testing whether providing rest intervals throughout walking rehabilitation efforts improves their effectiveness.

Michael Matise, Ph.D.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Piscataway, New Jersey

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$523,635

“Role of Shh-responsive astrocytes in blood-brain barrier integrity” Researchers at Rutgers University are exploring the role of a molecule in maintaining and repairing the blood-brain barrier, which malfunctions in MS.

Teresa Wood, Ph.D.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Piscataway, New Jersey

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Risk Factors

Approx. Funding: \$788,614

“Cooperative Functions of mTOR and TrkB/Erk Signaling in Remyelination” Researchers at Rutgers University are studying two molecular pathways that may work together to maintain and repair myelin following injury to myelin in mice.

Kouichi Ito, Ph.D.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$673,908

“Gut dysbiosis-mediated CNS autoimmunity” Rutgers University scientists are examining whether a specially designed high-fiber supplement can reduce changes in gut bacteria associated with MS.

Nancy Chiaravalloti, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$748,576

“Speed of Processing Training to Improve Cognition in MS: A Randomized Clinical Trial” Can a training program to improve the speed of processing information help people with MS?

John DeLuca, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$821,585

“MS Collaborative Network of New Jersey” What is the connection between cognitive and motor functions in people with MS?

Ekaterina Dobryakova, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$48,880

“Outcome Processing in Social Interactions in Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis: An Investigation using Pupillometry” Examining cognitive impediments that might prevent some individuals with MS from selecting the optimal behavior and from adapting to social environments.

Bing Yao, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$558,314

“Investigating the Correlation between Cognitive Fatigue and Brain Iron Deposition in Basal Ganglia in Multiple Sclerosis” Investigators at Kessler Foundation Research Center In West Orange, NJ, are exploring whether iron in certain areas of the brain contributes to cognitive fatigue in people with MS.

John DeLuca, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$404,698

“MS Fellowship in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation” Rehabilitation researchers at Kessler Foundation have received funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

Silvana Costa, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$476,610

“Keep an eye on the Symbol Digit Modalities Test” Kessler Foundation investigators are analyzing aspects of a cognitive test commonly used in MS, to develop more comprehensive and specific rehabilitation strategies.

NEW YORK

Hiroko Nobuta, Ph.D.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, New York
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2023

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$562,908

“Development of a Human Compatible Platform to Study Oligodendrocyte Biology” Researchers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, are optimizing ways of producing human myelin-making cells to speed efforts to find strategies to repair nerve-insulating myelin and restore function in MS.

Janet Shucard, Ph.D.

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$608,859

“The Effects of Working Memory Training on Brain Function, Structure, and Cognition in MS” Investigators at The State University of New York at Buffalo, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, are testing two training programs for improving cognitive function in people with MS.

Fraser Sim, Ph.D.

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$579,899

“Targeting extracellular sulfatases to accelerate oligodendrocyte progenitor-based myelin repair and regeneration” Researchers at The State University of New York at Buffalo are attempting a new strategy to improve the ability of cells to repair of nerve-insulating myelin.

Caila Vaughn, Ph.D., M.P.H.

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 11/1/2017-10/31/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management
of MS

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$43,725

“The Usefulness of the Talkitt Speech Recognition Technology in Improving Quality of Life for Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis and Dysarthria” Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo are conducting a trial to determine whether an application for smart devices improves communication-related quality of life in people with MS and speech disorders.

Ralph Benedict, Ph.D.

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2015-12/31/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$1,063,919

“The Role of Cognitive Dysfunction in Defining MS Relapses and Freedom from Disease Activity”

Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo are investigating the importance of cognitive problems in MS relapses to more precisely define disease activity during relapses and the absence of disease activity during periods of remission.

Pablo Paez, Ph.D.

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$492,314

“Voltage-gated calcium channels in reactive astrocytes, a possible therapeutic target to reduce brain inflammation and promote remyelination in MS.” SUNY Buffalo scientists are studying whether deleting tiny molecules that monitor calcium regulation in brain cells can reduce inflammation and possibly promote myelin repair.

Leandro Marziali, Ph.D.

The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: CNS Repair

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$188,067

“p38MAPK γ signaling in myelin biology: a novel molecular target to promote myelination and remyelination” A team at SUNY Buffalo is studying a protein that may inhibit myelin repair in people with MS, for clues to promoting myelin repair and recovery.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufer Family

Asaff Harel, M.D., M.Sc.

The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
Manhasset, New York

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 3/1/2019-2/28/2021

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Novel Neuroimaging Techniques for the Differentiation of Acute and Chronic MS Lesions Without Gadolinium: T1-Rho and Quantitative Susceptibility Mapping” A New York team is exploring a possible alternative to using the tracing agent gadolinium in MRI scans, which can accumulate in the brain over time.

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York

Award: Research Grants

Term: 8/1/2014-3/31/2020

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$572,755

“Resting State Functional Connectivity as a Predictor of Memory Decline in Multiple Sclerosis” Looking for a way to predict who will experience memory decline due to MS so that treatments to slow or prevent it can be started early.

Mia Minen, M.D., M.P.H.

New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York

Award: Pilot Research Grants

Term: 9/1/2017-4/1/2020

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$44,000

“Multiple Sclerosis and Migraine: Can smartphone based progressive muscle relaxation therapy help MS patients' headaches, sleep, mood/anxiety and stress levels?” Testing a method of reducing pain from migraine and MS.

Christoph Juchem, Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York

Award: Research Grants

Term: 9/1/2016-4/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$390,031

“In Vivo Metabolomics of Oxidative Stress with 7 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy” Researchers at Yale are using two imaging techniques to determine the distribution and importance of the antioxidant glutathione in the brains of people with MS.

Christopher Langston, M.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship” A promising doctor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

James Salzer, M.D., Ph.D.

New York University School of Medicine
New York, New York
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 9/23/2015-7/1/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$598,950

“Enhancing Remyelination by Targeting Gli1” Developing a potential therapy that promotes myelin repair by stimulating the body's repair mechanisms.

Funded in Collaboration with the MS Society of Canada

Leigh Charvet, Ph.D.

New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 3/1/2019-8/29/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,403

“Virtual Reality Pain Management: A Nonpharmacological Tool to Manage Pain in MS” NYU researchers are testing whether virtual reality techniques can reduce pain in people with MS.

Rebecca Straus Farber, M.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 3/1/2019-8/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Immunologic Effects of Prebiotics (Fermentable Dietary Fiber) as Compared to Probiotics in Multiple Sclerosis” New York researchers are testing two strategies for altering the gut microbiome in people with MS, in an effort to stop MS in its tracks.

Thanh Nguyen, Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$897,375

“Quantitative MRI of lesion iron and myelin repair” Weill Cornell Medical College researchers are testing and validating a novel imaging technique for use in determining how iron in MS lesions in the brain may affect myelin repair.

Lauren Krupp, M.D.

New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2021

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$1,046,676

“The neurodevelopmental influence of pediatric versus adult onset MS on cognition” Researchers at New York University are studying how MS affects cognitive abilities in children and adolescents, to help guide interventions.

Yinan Zhang, M.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
 New York, New York
 Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
 Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Progression
 Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“Sylvia Lawry Fellowship” Under the mentorship of Dr. Fred Lublin, Dr. Yinan Zhang at Mount Sinai will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Leigh Charvet, Ph.D.

New York University Langone Medical Center
 New York, New York
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
 Approx. Funding: \$532,862

“A randomized controlled trial of remotely-supervised transcranial direct current stimulation (RS-tDCS) for the treatment of fatigue in multiple sclerosis” New York University researchers are conducting a small clinical trial of transcranial direct current stimulation to assess its effectiveness for treating MS-related fatigue.

Ilana Katz Sand, M.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
 New York, New York
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
 Approx. Funding: \$299,680

“The Effect of Dietary Factors on Disease Outcomes in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York are following up on a previous study of diet in people with MS, to validate their findings and determine whether additional dietary factors are important.

Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics

New York, New York
 Award: Fast Forward
 Term: 11/6/2019-11/5/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
 Approx. Funding: \$495,330

“Biomarker and Pharmacodynamic Evaluation in a Phase 2 Open Label, Multicenter Study of NurOwn® in Participants with Progressive Multiple Sclerosis” Brainstorm is supporting a phase 2 clinical trial to see if repeated spinal fluid infusions of individuals’ own transformed bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (NurOwn®) can protect the nervous system from damage and promote myelin repair in partic

Timothy Vartanian, M.D., Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College
 New York, New York
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2022

Category: Immunology
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Pathology
 Approx. Funding: \$370,192

“Defining ancestry associated B-cell inflammation in treatment naïve Multiple Sclerosis” Weill Cornell researchers are investigating immune cell differences in racially and ethnically diverse individuals to better predict and treat MS in non-white populations.

Korhan Buyukturkoglu, Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$194,456

“Building a Pattern Classifier to Distinguish Cognitive Phenotypes in MS” Columbia University researchers are bringing several different MRI methods together to see the ‘big picture’ of cognitive impairment in MS, to better evaluate and overcome this problem.

Sam Horng, M.D., Ph.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$40,813

“How Does the Astrocyte Barrier Protein, JAM-A, Regulate Immune Cell Entry and Activity in CNS Inflammatory Lesions?” Researchers at Icahn School of Medicine are exploring a novel strategy that pinpoints the entry of immune cells into the brain, for clues to stopping damage caused by the immune attack in MS.

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$389,211

“Cognitive Rehabilitation in MS: From Neuroscience to Clinical Practice” An award supporting the training of promising young candidates in cognitive rehabilitation for people with multiple sclerosis.

Jennifer Linden, Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2022

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$583,486

“Using Endothelial Microparticles to Study Real-Time Blood Brain Barrier Permeability in Multiple Sclerosis Patients” Investigators at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York are studying a molecular “signature” found in blood that may indicate the status of the blood-brain barrier, which normally protects the brain by keeping harmful cells and molecules out of the bra

Neha Safi, M.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship” A promising doctor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Dritan Agalliu, Ph.D.

Columbia University
 New York, New York
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: CNS Repair
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Pathology
 Approx. Funding: \$635,264

“Endothelial Wnt signaling in CNS neo-angiogenesis and blood-brain barrier in EAE/MS”

Columbia University researchers are exploring blood vessel abnormalities in MS to develop therapies that can prevent the influx of immune cells and protect the nervous system in MS.

Saud Sadiq, M.D.

Tisch MS Research Center of New York
 NEW YORK, New York
 Award: Strategic Initiatives
 Term: 4/1/2019-3/30/2023

Category: CNS Repair
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
 Approx. Funding: \$1,000,000

“Phase 2, Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo Controlled Study of Intrathecal autologous MSC-NP Cells in Patients With MS”

The Tisch MS Research Center of New York is conducting a phase II clinical trial to see whether stem cells derived from individuals' own bone marrow can inhibit immune mechanisms and augment tissue repair in progressive MS.

Mathilde Pruvost, Ph.D.

Research Foundation of CUNY-ASRC
 New York, New York
 Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
 Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: CNS Repair
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
 Approx. Funding: \$196,309

“Promoting remyelination by investigating the nuclear mechanisms induced by neuronal stimulation in adult oligodendrocyte progenitors.”

Researchers at CUNY-ASRC are exploring how nerve signals stimulate myelin-making cells for clues to promoting myelin repair in MS.

Holly Colognato, Ph.D.

State University of New York at Stony Brook
 Stony Brook, New York
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
 Approx. Funding: \$582,278

“Signaling pathways that regulate myelin repair” Researchers at State University of New York at Stony Brook are exploring a strategy for stimulating signals that promote myelin repair in MS.

NORTH CAROLINA**Glenn Matsushima, Ph.D.**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: CNS Repair
 Strategic Area: Restore
 Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
 Approx. Funding: \$500,259

“Function of microglia during remyelination” Researchers at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are exploring a novel strategy for promoting the natural capacity of the brain to repair the damage that occurs in MS.

Jenny Ting, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 4/1/2014-3/31/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$825,000

“Preclinical Therapeutic Development for Multiple Sclerosis” Testing therapies to stop the immune attack and protect the nervous system.

Yisong Wan, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$621,352

“Targeting T cell function to halt MS/EAE development” Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are studying a factor that appears to be important in abnormal activation of immune cells that are harmful in MS.

Mari Shinohara, Ph.D.

Duke University Medical Center
Charlotte, North Carolina
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$638,584

“Study on innate immune inflammation that enhances EAE” Duke University researchers are exploring how immune system activity leads to nerve degeneration, for insights into ways to prevent nerve loss and MS progression.

OHIO

Qing Lu, Ph.D.

Children's Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$698,640

“Long non-coding RNA control of CNS myelination and remyelination” Researchers at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center are investigating the possible role of a type of molecule called long noncoding RNA that may regulate repair of myelin, which is destroyed in MS.

Hod Dana, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Optical recording of neuronal activity during demyelination and remyelination processes with cellular resolution” A Cleveland Clinic team is developing a novel method for determining the effects of MS and potential treatments on nerve cells.

Kedar Mahajan, M.D., Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
Term: 7/1/2016-6/30/2020

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$194,394

“Magnetic resonance fingerprinting and pathology correlations in multiple sclerosis” Cleveland Clinic investigators are using novel imaging and tissue studies to understand how MS impacts an area deep in the brain, called the thalamus, and how its injury contributes to disability.

Funded in part by Daniel and Anita Schwab

Paul Tesar, Ph.D.

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Human Genetics
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$654,443

“The impact of chemical and genetic dysregulation of transcriptional pausing on oligodendrocyte generation and myelination in MS” Investigators at Case Western Reserve University and the Whitehead Institute are investigating underlying factors that hinder stem cells in the brain from replacing myelin in people with MS.

Cashel Neural Inc

Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 1/1/2019-10/1/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$401,335

“Optimization of a remyelination candidate” Cashel Neural scientists are conducting laboratory studies to advance a compound that may promote the development of cells that make nerve-insulating myelin, which is destroyed in MS.

Xiaoxia Li, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$732,861

“Cellular and molecular mechanisms of the inflammasome in CNS inflammation” Researchers at the Cleveland Clinic are investigating the importance of harmful immune system molecules in an animal model of MS.

Jenny Feng, M.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,000

“Training in multiple sclerosis diagnosis, management, and clinical trials” A promising doctor at Cleveland Clinic Foundation will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Dimitrios Davalos, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$428,672

“Gliovascular Mechanisms of Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption in Multiple Sclerosis” Cleveland Clinic researchers are using novel techniques to explore mechanisms involved in early immune cell infiltration into the central nervous system in MS-like disease, for clues to stopping immune attacks in MS..

Booki Min, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$667,710

“The role of Foxp3+ regulatory T cells during glucocorticoid treatment of autoimmunity” Cleveland Clinic researchers are exploring how high-dose steroids to treat acute MS attacks influence the activity of immune cells and how this approach to reducing inflammation may be improved.

Funded in part by a gift from the Kaufser Family

Daniel Ontaneda, M.D., M.S.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$378,797

“Determining the Effectiveness of early Intensive Versus Escalation approaches for the treatment of Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (DELIVER-MS)” The Society is leveraging PCORI-funded clinical trials to support an MS biobank as a shared resource for researchers searching for biomarkers that will help elucidate predictors of long-term disability and treatment response.

Kirsten Evonuk, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$188,067

“Selective deletion of AMPA-type glutamate receptors on oligodendrocytes is neuroprotective in autoimmune demyelination” Cleveland Clinic researchers are seeking discover how dysfunction of the nerve signaling chemical glutamate may block myelin repair in mice, for clues to promoting myelin repair in MS.

The Kathleen C. Moore Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship

Carolyn Goldschmidt, D.O.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Sylvania Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,000

“Training in multiple sclerosis diagnosis, management, and clinical trials” Under the mentorship of Dr. Jeff Cohen, Dr. Carolyn Goldschmidt at the Cleveland Clinic will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Nozha Borjini, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$189,883

“Study of Blood Brain Barrier Disruption in Neuroinflammatory Disease” A Cleveland Clinic team is exploring mechanisms at early stages of MS-like disease that enable immune cells to enter the brain and spinal cord, and possible ways to stop them.

Lindsay Ross, M.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Sylvania Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,000

“Training in Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis, management and clinical trials” A promising doctor at the Cleveland Clinic will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Ruchika Prakash, Ph.D.

Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$631,261

“A physical activity-based tracking intervention to enhance cognitive and neural plasticity” Researchers from The Ohio State University are testing whether increasing physical activity through the use of simple accelerometers can improve cognitive functioning in MS.

Phillip Rumrill, Ph.D., C.R.C.

Kent State University
Kent, Ohio
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2019-4/1/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$594,000

“A Two-Phase Examination of Labor Force Participation, Employment Concerns, and Workplace Discrimination among Latinas/os and African Americans with Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Kent State are investigating the employment experiences of the growing numbers of Hispanic/Latinos and African Americans with MS.

OREGON

Daniel Hartung, M.P.H., Pharm.D.

Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Contracts
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$411,151

“Costs, Access, and Value of Multiple Sclerosis Disease-Modifying Therapies” Researchers at Oregon State University are investigating reasons for the escalating costs of MS treatments.

Dennis Bourdette, M.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$598,082

“Promoting remyelination in animal models of multiple sclerosis with a selective thyromimetic prodrug” Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are exploring a novel strategy for repairing myelin and restoring function in laboratory models of MS.

Dennis Bourdette, M.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 4/1/2015-3/31/2020

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$825,000

“Developing patient-centered and evidence-based wellness programs for people with MS” Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are collaborating to develop patient-centered and evidenced-based wellness programs to improve the daily life of people with MS.

Fay Horak, P.T., Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2014-6/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$432,457

“Rehabilitation Research Training in Postural Control of Multiple Sclerosis” Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowship in MS Rehabilitation Research to enhance research into ways to use rehabilitation to improve balance and gait in people with MS.

Elizabeth Silbermann, M.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$195,000

“Sylvia Lawry Clinical Trials Physician Fellowship” A promising doctor at Oregon Health & Science University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Larry Sherman, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$575,556

“WE-thrombin for the treatment of inflammatory demyelination” Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are developing a novel agent that fights inflammation, which may protect the nervous system from damage in MS.

Rebecca Spain, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2021

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$1,180,578

“Lipoic acid for the treatment of progressive multiple sclerosis” Investigators at Oregon Health & Science University are conducting a clinical trial to determine if the oral supplement, lipoic acid, is an effective treatment for progressive forms of multiple sclerosis.

Kelly Monk, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Award
Term: 12/1/2017-11/30/2021

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$379,895

“Molecular mechanisms that govern oligodendrocyte biology” Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine are investigating how certain genes control the formation of nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to developing myelin repair strategies.

Gregory Duncan, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$177,243

“Mechanisms of neuronal adaptation to chronic demyelination” An Oregon team is determining whether nerve cells and fibers adapt to prevent themselves from being damaged in MS models, for clues to reducing damage and disease progression in people with MS.

Michelle Cameron, M.D., P.T.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$534,358

“A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Multicomponent Walking Aid Program for People with MS” Oregon Health & Science University researchers are testing whether a standardized program provided by physical therapists, that helps to select, fit, and train in using walking aids, can prevent falls in people with MS.

Kelly Monk, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$738,271

“Molecular and Genetic Regulation of Myelin Capacity in the CNS” Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are studying how two genes function so that they may be targeted to promote myelin repair in MS.

Jiaying Li, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$196,309

“Investigating synapse assembly and disassembly in oligodendrocyte precursor cells” OHSU scientists are focusing on how myelin-making cells and nerve cells communicate, and how this knowledge may be used to promote myelin repair in MS.

PENNSYLVANIA

A.M. Rostami, M.D., Ph.D.

Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$650,000

“IL-37, a novel therapeutic intervention for autoimmune neuroinflammation” Researchers at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia are exploring a novel strategy for stopping the immune attack in MS.

Bogoljub Ciric, Ph.D.

Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“The therapeutic effect of D-mannose in EAE” Scientists at Thomas Jefferson University are testing whether D-mannose, a simple sugar, may stop the immune attack in lab models of MS.

Ritobrato Datta, Ph.D.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 6/1/2019-5/31/2020

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$54,532

“Glutamate Toxicity as a Component of Progressive Thalamic Damage in Multiple Sclerosis.” Researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are developing imaging technology that may identify an early contributor to nerve cell damage in MS, for clues to developing therapies that protect the nervous system.

Rodolfo Thome, Ph.D.

Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$184,654

“The role of IL-7 in pathogenesis of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis” Researchers at Thomas Jefferson University are investigating the role of an immune molecule that may drive damaging inflammation in MS.

Longevity Biotech, Inc

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Fast Forward
Term: 9/27/2017-9/1/2020

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$332,559

“Evaluation of a Parkinson’s Disease Drug Candidate in Myelination Events Associated with Multiple Sclerosis” Pre-clinical testing of the ability of a drug being tested in Parkinson's to protect and repair damaged nerve cells while also restoring balance to the immune system.

Funded in Collaboration with the MS Society of Canada

Russell Shinohara, Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Impact of insurance status on MRI phenotypes in MS” Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania are exploring whether having public or private insurance impacts MS progression or disease activity.

Russell Shinohara, Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Epidemiology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$585,061

“A traveling subject study of replicability in conventional and advanced MRI MS biomarkers” Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania are developing statistical methods to reduce differences in images obtained on different MRI scanners to improve the accuracy of MRI data from people with MS.

Bogoljub Ciric, Ph.D.

Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$584,056

“The role of CSF-1R and its ligands, CSF-1 and IL-34, in CNS autoimmunity.” Researchers at Thomas Jefferson University are investigating regulators of specific immune cells involved in nervous system tissue damage in MS.

Brenda Banwell, M.D.

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Risk Factors
 Approx. Funding: \$627,224

“Does Recreational Marijuana Exposure Increase Cognitive Impairment and MRI Measures of Brain Injury in Youth and Young Adults with Multiple Sclerosis?” A team at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is studying the effect of recreational marijuana use on the brain and cognition in teenagers with MS.

Mihir Kakara, M.B.B.S.

University of Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Awards
 Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2023

Category: Infectious Agents
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Pathology
 Approx. Funding: \$209,702

“Epstein-Barr virus salivary shedding and immune responses in multiple sclerosis following B-cell depletion” Scientists at the University of Pennsylvania are exploring the role of a virus specifically in people with MS who are undergoing treatment with B cell-depleting therapy.

RHODE ISLAND**Stephen Buka, Sc.D.**

Brown University
 Providence, Rhode Island
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/9/2016-12/31/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Risk Factors
 Approx. Funding: \$773,335

“Multiple sclerosis:prevalence & social functioning by disease duration & subtype” A comprehensive study of the impact of MS on employment, interpersonal relations and daily living.

SOUTH CAROLINA**Stephen Tomlinson, Ph.D.**

Medical University of South Carolina
 Charleston, South Carolina
 Award: Pilot Research Grants
 Term: 2/1/2020-1/31/2021

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Progression
 Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“A novel targeting approach for complement inhibition and Treg therapy” South Carolina researchers are testing whether inhibiting immune system components affects progression of MS-like disease.

TENNESSEE**Hongbo Chi, Ph.D.**

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 Memphis, Tennessee
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2020

Category: Immunology
 Strategic Area: Stop
 Research Priority: Pathology
 Approx. Funding: \$660,000

“Metabolic control of TH17 cell plasticity and pathogenicity in neuroinflammation” Researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, are studying a novel immune pathway that may help to protect mice from developing MS-like disease, for clues to stopping the attack in MS.

Ipek Oguz, Ph.D.

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$53,689

“Automated Segmentation of Cortical Lesions in Multiple Sclerosis” Vanderbilt University researchers are developing an approach that would enable computerized recognition of types of MS brain lesions to improve accuracy for studying MS and monitoring people's conditions.

Francesca Bagnato, M.D., Ph.D.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2023

Category: Diagnostic Methods
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$840,183

“7T-rings as a biomarker of disease severity in multiple sclerosis: cross-sectional and longitudinal validation” Vanderbilt University researchers are testing whether an indicator found using powerful imaging tools can – if found early – serve to predict and ultimately prevent a more severe course of MS.

TEXAS

Jianrong Li, Ph.D.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research
College Station, Texas
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$521,327

“Role of Galectin-9 in CNS Inflammation, Demyelination and Myelin Repair” Researchers at Texas A&M University are investigating a target for developing biomarkers and treatment strategies for progressive MS.

Bart Rypma, Ph.D.

The University of Texas at Dallas
Dallas, Texas
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2020

Category: Neurophysiology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$522,792

“The Effect of Neural-Vascular Coupling Changes on Cognitive Performance in Multiple Sclerosis” University of Texas, Dallas researchers are seeking to understand biological mechanisms that underlie MS “brain fog” as a path toward finding solutions to cognitive problems in MS.

Teng-Wei Huang, Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$172,507

“The role of Sox9 in remyelination after white matter injury” Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine are exploring a novel pathway to understand why myelin repair fails in people with MS, for clues to a possible repair strategy.

Joo-won Kim, Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, Texas

Award: Research Grants

Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2020

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$67,374

“Assessing Microstructural Integrity of Cervical Spinal Cord Gray and White Matter with Ultra-High Field Diffusion MRI for Progressive MS” Researchers are using advanced imaging to evaluate damage to the spinal cord in people with progressive MS to allow better ways to predict and treat progression.

Funded by the Kathleen C Moore Foundation

Hyun Kyoung Lee, Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, Texas

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: Biology of Glia

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$656,739

“Deciphering the Daam2-VHL signaling axis in oligodendrocyte remyelination in multiple sclerosis” Baylor researchers are focusing on understanding interactions of molecules to find a way to promote the repair of myelin that has been damaged by MS.

Thomas Forsthuber, M.D., Ph.D.

The University of Texas at San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2020

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Pathology

Approx. Funding: \$660,270

“NETs and lipid peroxidation as drivers of progressive EAE” University of Texas at San Antonio researchers are exploring how to stop nervous system damage, for clues to developing treatments that stop MS progression.

UTAH

Lee Dibble, P.T., Ph.D.

University of Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$436,220

“Gaze and postural stability in persons with MS at risk for falls: Characterizing deficits and response to treatment” Researchers at the University of Utah are investigating whether exercises specifically designed to improve inner ear function can improve balance and vision stability in people with MS.

Clene Nanomedicine

Salt Lake City, Utah

Award: Fast Forward

Term: 9/30/2019-9/30/2021

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair

Approx. Funding: \$339,232

“A Biomarker Analysis of Patients with Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis Treated with Biocatalytic Nanocrystalline Gold (CNM-Au8)” Clene Nanomedicine scientists are leveraging an ongoing clinical trial to measure blood biomarkers that may help detect nervous system protection and myelin repair in MS.

Mingnan Chen, Ph.D.

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2022

Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$463,892

“Understanding and utilizing the role of programmed death 1-positive (PD-1+) cells in multiple sclerosis” A team at the University of Utah is developing a therapy that targets specific immune cells, and testing it in MS mouse models to see if it can stop MS-like attacks without affecting normal immune function.

Theron Casper, Ph.D.

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2022

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$3,490,520

“Renewal of Pediatric MS Network” The Society is supporting a one-of-a-kind network for research to advance knowledge and understanding of the triggers and impacts of MS in both children and adults.

Ryan O'Connell, Ph.D.

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Term: 1/1/2020-6/30/2022

Category: Neuropathology
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Neuroprotection/Repair
Approx. Funding: \$509,153

“Novel approaches towards understanding disease progression and repair using viral models of multiple sclerosis” University of Utah researchers from a variety of fields are trying different experimental approaches including adult stem cells to stop progression of MS-like disease in mice and promote repair of the nervous system.

Weiquan Zhu, Ph.D.

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2023

Category: CNS Repair
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Progression
Approx. Funding: \$809,998

“Stabilizing the Blood-Central Nervous System Barrier to Treat Multiple Sclerosis” A University of Utah team is studying the role of a protein in the onset and progression of MS lab models, and whether blocking it has potential for treating MS.

VERMONT

Dimitry Kremetsov, Ph.D.

University of Vermont and State Agricultural College
Burlington, Vermont
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$312,877

“Next generation systems analysis of pathogenetic mechanisms underlying CNS autoimmunity using the Collaborative Cross” A University of Vermont team is seeking to identify and validate genes that may underlie a person’s susceptibility to MS.

VIRGINIA

Elizabeth Frost, Ph.D.

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2020

Category: Biology of Glia
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$181,754

“Spleen tyrosine kinase regulation of microglial functions in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis” Researchers are investigating whether an enzyme plays helpful roles in regulating the function of a cell type called microglia in MS.

Myla Goldman, M.D., M.Sc.

Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-12:00:00 AM

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$est. 329,238

“Assessment of the Clinical Importance of Insulin Resistance & Steroid-Associated Hyperglycemia in Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis” A team from the University of Virginia School of Medicine is exploring whether controlling blood sugar can decrease the severity and/or improve recovery from an acute MS relapse.

WASHINGTON

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2013-6/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$382,459

“The Seattle collaborative post-doctoral fellowship in MS rehabilitation research” A training program to provide fellows research skills that will enable them to conduct studies aimed at improving quality of life for people with MS.

Dagmar Amtmann, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Developing measures of sexual function and satisfaction with sex life for persons with Multiple Sclerosis” Improving questionnaires about sexual function so that they include relevant aspects of sexual function for people with MS.

Estelle Bettelli, Ph.D.

Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, Washington
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2020

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$497,819

“Cell type specific modulation of STAT1 signaling to prevent the development of CNS autoimmunity” Researchers at the Benaroya Research Institute in Seattle are studying a signaling pathway with the goal of improving protecting the nervous system from MS damage.

Charles Bombardier, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2013-9/30/2020

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$1,466,730

“The effect of aerobic exercise on cognition in multiple sclerosis” Can aerobic exercise improve cognitive impairment in people with MS?

Maria Mendoza, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$54,998

“Waking hypnosis in the treatment of MS-related fatigue: pilot and feasibility study” University of Washington are testing two hypnosis techniques for their ability to reduce fatigue in people with MS, including Spanish speakers.

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.

Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research
Seattle, Washington
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2020

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$55,000

“Chronic Opioid Use in MS” A Seattle team is examining opioid use in veterans with MS for clues to determining the risks involved in administering opioids for MS-related pain.

Dawn Ehde, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2021

Category: Rehabilitation
Strategic Area: Restore
Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness
Approx. Funding: \$83,450

“A Randomized Controlled Trial of Telephone-Delivered Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Modafinil, and Combination Therapy of Both Interventions for Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis” The National MS Society is providing supplemental funding to a PCORI-funded trial to enhance results.

Mohamed Oukka, Ph.D.

Seattle Children's Hospital
Seattle, Washington
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2021

Category: Immunology
Strategic Area: Stop
Research Priority: Pathology
Approx. Funding: \$724,876

“Effects of Fingolimod on T cells” Researchers at Seattle Children’s Hospital are exploring immune regulators to refine attempts to stop MS disease activity.

Dawn Ehde, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2022

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$879,991

“Mindfulness based Cognitive Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain in Multiple Sclerosis” University of Washington researchers are conducting a clinical trial testing two non-pharmacological approaches to managing pain in people with MS.

Ivan Molton, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2023

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$1,147,728

“Efficacy of a psychological intervention to improve ability to cope with uncertainty in MS .”

University of Washington researchers are comparing traditional behavioral therapy with briefer counseling to determine how to better help people newly diagnosed with MS to cope with the uncertainty of the disease.

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2023

Category: Rehabilitation

Strategic Area: Restore

Research Priority: Symptoms, Rehab, Wellness

Approx. Funding: \$401,426

“The Seattle Collaborative Fellowship” Researchers at the University of Washington and VA Puget Sound are training a series of promising professionals in how to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

WISCONSIN

Bonnie Dittel, Ph.D.

Versiti Wisconsin, Inc
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2022

Category: Immunology

Strategic Area: Stop

Research Priority: Progression

Approx. Funding: \$723,642

“B cell regulation in EAE/MS” A Wisconsin team is exploring a newly identified subset of immune cells for clues to developing a cell-based therapy to stop the immune attack in MS.