



END THE DISEASE FOREVER

**MS NOW**

An MS Research Revolution

## STOP MS IN ITS TRACKS RESTORE WHAT'S BEEN LOST END THE DISEASE FOREVER

The uncertainty of MS affects everyone with a diagnosis; uncertainty about what tomorrow might hold. But it also demands urgency to ultimately bring an end to this disease for everyone — forever.

Prevention for future generations must become a reality, and without it, we haven't delivered a complete solution to people with MS.

Ending MS means no one will ever get this disease again. That means we need to find the cause of MS, what triggers it, and what may protect against it.

As part of a unique and comprehensive approach to MS research, the Society is committed to ending MS forever. Here's how:

### WE AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE STUDIES TO IDENTIFY ALL COMMON MS-RELATED GENES, BECAUSE GENES MAKE PEOPLE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MS. WE WILL ANSWER HOW IT IS TRIGGERED, AND HOW IT COULD BE PREVENTED:

- Massive screening studies to identify all common susceptibility genes common among people who have MS
- Studies delving into specific MS genes to uncover plausible paths through which they influence the disease process
- DNA banking to support the efforts of researchers around the world seeking clues to MS susceptibility

### WE MUST BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT FACTORS IN THE ENVIRONMENT INFLUENCE WHETHER A PERSON GETS MS.

- Population studies examining factors such as vitamin D intake, sun exposure and smoking, to uncover exposures that may increase risks for the disease — or protect against it
- Studies exploring complex interactions between environmental factors and genes to better understand how MS might be triggered
- Studies tracking factors that influence disease worsening, which may also influence its onset

OUR FUNDING CREATED A DATA HUB FOR STUDIES OF KIDS WITH MS, WHOSE YOUNG IMMUNE SYSTEMS MAY OFFER CLUES TO MS TRIGGERS

“I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY CHILDREN DEVELOPING MS.”

WE FUNDED EARLY STUDIES SHOWING HOW IMMUNE CELLS MIGHT BE TRIGGERED TO ATTACK MYELIN BY ENCOUNTERS WITH INFECTIOUS AGENTS

Susan, diagnosed in 1995





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**WE MUST IDENTIFY POSSIBLE INFECTIOUS TRIGGERS FOR MS.**

- Studies exploring patterns of infectious agent exposures in people with MS and people without MS
- Explorations of underlying mechanisms through which immune cells respond to viruses and the potential for misguided immune attacks
- Studies that model infections that trigger the immune system to turn against the body's own nervous system

**Significant progress has been made, but more must be done, NOW.**

TO HELP **END** THE DISEASE FOR EVERYONE, PLEASE CONSIDER A GENEROUS GIFT.

*Your support will revolutionize care and treatment options, bringing real solutions to everyone living with MS.*

[nationalMSsociety.org](http://nationalMSsociety.org)

WE SUPPORTED EARLY STUDIES LINKING HIGHER VITAMIN D INTAKE TO LOWER RISK OF MS, AND LINKING SMOKING WITH INCREASED RISK

“MY FUTURE WILL NO LONGER BE **UNSURE.**”



Fotini, diagnosed in 2007

OUR FUNDING FORMED THE INTERNATIONAL MS GENETICS CONSORTIUM, WORLD LEADERS IN GENE BREAKTHROUGHS

“MY GRANDCHILDREN WILL NEVER HEAR THE WORDS ‘YOU HAVE MS’”



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