



MS Clinical Care **CONNECTION**

A Resource for Healthcare Professionals

News for Health Professionals

World MS Day — May 30, 2023

World MS Day, initiated in 2009 by the **Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF)** and its global members, which includes the National MS Society, unites individuals and organizations from around the world to raise awareness and move us closer to a world free of MS. The theme for the 2023 campaign is “I Connect, We Connect” (#MSConnections). It calls for building community connections, self-connection and connections to quality care. MSIF provides a toolkit of free resources to help everyone to take part in World MS Day. Anyone can use these tools, or make their own, to shine a light on our efforts and create positive change in the lives of more than 2.8 million people around the world living with MS. Visit worldmsday.org to learn more and get involved.

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) Funding Opportunities

The CDMRP supports pioneering concepts and high-impact research relevant to the prevention, etiology, pathogenesis, assessment, treatment and ultimate cure of MS for the benefit of service members and their families, Veterans and the American public. The FY23 Multiple Sclerosis Research Program offers 4

awards. Learn more about these research funding opportunities and apply on the CDMRP site. Note that pre-applications are due June 8th.

[Apply Here](#)

The National MS Society Collaborates With the Office of Minority Health

In April, the Office of Minority Health (OMH) observed **Minority Health Month** to highlight the importance of improving the health of racially and ethnically diverse communities and reducing health disparities. This year the theme was “Better health through better understanding.” To spread awareness of the importance of diet and nutrition for those living with MS, the Society collaborated with OMH to record new Ask an MS Expert programs. The program in English, “**The Impact of Diet and Nutrition on MS**,” was introduced by the director of OMH, Rear Admiral Felicia Collins, MD, MPH, FAAP, and featured Ilana Katz Sand, MD. The program in Spanish, “**La Importancia de la Dieta y la Nutrición en la Esclerosis Múltiple**,” was presented by registered dietitian and nutrition specialist Wanda I. González Otero.

Professional Education

MS Clinical Care Fellowships — Individual and Institutional Awards

Pre-Applications Are OPEN

The National MS Society funds two MS clinical care fellowships, the MS Clinical Care Physician Fellowship grants, which are one-year, post-residency individual awards, and the Institutional Clinician Training Awards, which are three-year* awards, to support mentors and institutions training MS fellows.

*Important change to the Institutional Clinician Training Award (ICTA): The National MS Society continually reassesses our clinical care training awards to ensure alignment with our three-year strategic plan and the rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. Beginning with the 2023 grant application cycle, the term

of the Institutional Clinician Training Award (ICTA) will be reduced from five to three years to better facilitate this alignment and faster incorporation of programmatic changes. This change does not impact the terms of existing ICTAs.

[Learn More](#)

4 Ways to Connect with the MS Society at CMSC

Symposium: Changing the MS Journey

Wednesday, May 31, 8:00 a.m. MST [Symposium Registration](#)

Learn about innovative programs and resources available through the National MS Society designed to support individuals through the changing journey of MS. Discover the Society's updated online presence, expanded resources and strategic partnerships. Understand the progress the Society is making in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, health literacy and health equity.

Breakfast: Revisiting the Clinical Course Descriptors of MS

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 a.m. MST [Breakfast Registration](#)

Join Dr. Ruth Ann Marrie – winner of the 2022 Barancik Prize for Innovation in MS research - for a discussion on an international initiative to revisit the clinical course descriptors of MS. As past chair of the International Advisory Committee on Clinical Trials in Multiple Sclerosis, Dr. Marrie will provide an overview of the committee's efforts to develop a mechanism-driven framework for describing the course of multiple sclerosis. You will have the opportunity to provide your perspective on this work for patients and healthcare providers.

Visit our exhibit table: #701

Pick up literature and speak with Society staff about resources.

Visit our Posters

We have five posters featuring our programs offered to individuals affected by MS and healthcare providers. Meet with Society staff and learn more about the impact of these educational opportunities.

Resources for Your Patients

2023 Black MS Experience Summit

June 14-15, 2023, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST Both Days

We are excited to continue our commitment to the Black MS community and help amplify voices, build connections, and support those affected by MS. This year's virtual summit is focused on Resist Invisibility and Embrace Identity, will feature dynamic stories and speakers who will address invisibility and create a safe space to share stories and connect through common experiences.

[Register Now](#)

MSFriends® (newly updated!)

The **MSFriends** program connects patients affected by MS with volunteers who understand life with MS and can say, "I've been there, too." By joining the MSFriends program, patients get access to confidential one-on-one conversations with trained volunteers on their schedule. MSFriends meet for up to six months via phone, email or video calls based on your preference.

Peer Connections Volunteers are trained individuals who focus on the support needs of people affected by MS. Opportunities include Self-Help Group Leaders, MSFriends and/or Online Community Leaders. [Learn more](#) about being a Peer Connections Volunteer.

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