

Press Release for Personal Use

Re: Consumer Participation on Scientific Peer Review Panels

For Immediate Press Release:

## **SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

The Multiple Sclerosis Research Program (MSRP) advocate John Platt recently participated in the evaluation of research applications submitted to the MSRP sponsored by the Department of Defense. Mr. Platt was nominated for participation in the program by the National MS Society. As a consumer reviewer, he was a full voting member, (along with prominent scientists) at meetings to help determine how the \$6.0 million appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 2017 will be spent on multiple sclerosis research.

Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of patients and family members by preparing comments on the impact of the research on issues such as diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life. When commenting on serving as a consumer reviewer, Mr. Platt said that, “despite all my running with MS and marathon accomplishments, serving as a reviewer is a more rewarding experience. It’s progress for individuals living with the disease, past, present, and future, their families, caregivers, doctors, nurses, therapists, honestly it’s progress for the entire MS Community. My legs and running can never have that impact”.

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the scientific merit of research applications since 2009. Colonel Wanda L. Salzer, M.D., Director of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs expressed her appreciation for the consumer advocates perspective during the scientific review sessions. “The Consumer Reviewers on each panel are instrumental in helping the scientists understand the patient’s perspective and provide valuable insight into the potential impact of the proposed project. They bring with them a sense of urgency and remind us all, of the human element involved in medical research.”

Scientists applying propose to conduct innovative research focused on the treatment and rehabilitation in the areas of multiple sclerosis. The MSRP fills important gaps not addressed by other funding agencies by supporting groundbreaking, high-risk, high-gain research while encouraging out-of-the-box thinking.

More information about the Department of Defense MSRP is available at the Website: <http://cdmrp.army.mil>.

---

### **Media Contact:**

Erin Bolling, Public Affairs, 301-619-7783

[erin.e.bolling.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:erin.e.bolling.ctr@mail.mil)