**QUARTERLY UPDATE** 

#### National Multiple Sclerosis Society

SPRING 2022

# PATHWAYS TO CURES RESEARCH ROADMAP PUBLISHED

The National MS Society's Pathways to Cures Research Roadmap was published in the prestigious **Multiple Sclerosis Journal**, establishing the very first global MS research agenda. As the biggest, boldest and most collaborative MS research effort of our time, MS organizations and scientific leaders across the globe have endorsed the roadmap, agreeing that this is the way forward to stop MS, restore lost function and end MS forever.



"When you hear about a cure, it brings that hope back... If no one would ever have to experience this, it would change the world," shares Marti, diagnosed in 2018.

The Pathways to Cures publication marks a huge milestone in the Society's focus on finding cures to

the disease and is a direct result of the unwavering commitment and generosity of Society supporters like you.

"Curing MS is within our reach," said Bruce Bebo, PhD, Executive Vice President of Research at the Society and lead author on the paper. "When we talk about curing MS, we're talking about curing MS for everyone. The roadmap will drive progress by increasing alignment and focus of global resources on high priority research questions."

Just as the experience of living with MS is different for every person, every person's cure for MS may be different. Whether that means being able to walk without assistance, riding a bike again, seeing an MRI with no new lesions or knowing your child will never hear the words, "you have MS," Pathways to Cures will sharpen the global focus, collaboration and shared investment needed to find cures faster.



### FIND OUT WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON AT PATHWAYSTOCURES.ORG



A cure for Scott would mean trading the wheels of his mobility scooter for the wheels of his bicycle — but as "plan B," he's happy to settle for no one ever again having to hear, "you have MS." Through the **STOP pathway**, the world will unite

Scott, diagnosed in 2002

to improve early detection methods before MS symptoms ever appear and develop precision medicine options to prevent further disease progression.

## A cure for MS is different for every person. What does it mean to Stop MS?



## A cure for MS is different for every person. What does it mean to End MS?





Faith, diagnosed in 1999

As Faith shares, a cure would mean no longer having to rely on mobility aids and regaining a sense of freedom and independence. The global MS community will join forces through the **RESTORE pathway** to

uncover remyelination options and enhance efforts

to uncover rehabilitation, lifestyle and wellness strategies so people like Faith recover function and get back what they lost due to this disease.



Tim, diagnosed in 1998

Finally, significant investments will be made through the **END pathway** to broaden MS prevention strategies including uncovering risk factors and at-risk prevention options. This will lead us to the day no one is ever diagnosed with MS again and achieve

Tim's dream, "If my grandkids never have to go through this, that would be a godsend. People would be saying 'hey, remember MS?'"

## A cure for MS is different for every person. What does it mean to Restore lost function?





# A THRILLING MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY

When Sylvia Lawry founded the National MS Society in 1946, searching for answers for her brother Bernard, she was not concerned with where the answers appeared, but only that they came. To this day, thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, the National MS Society has remained steadfast in our commitment to bring the brightest minds together — from around the world — to collaborate and to accelerate progress.

With your support, we've forged novel collaborations like the International Progressive MS Alliance, bringing scientists, thought leadership and financial resources together, to drive innovation and speed progress. The results of collaborations like this have been outstanding and this global approach to "teamwork" has brought MS cures within reach. Now, as a global MS movement, we're ready to make the next chapter of our MS journey the last.

Through Pathways to Cures, together we will align the world's talent and resources to the areas of greatest opportunity. We will facilitate the collaboration

necessary to answer the most pressing research questions we face, finally unlocking the answers Ms. Lawry sought over 75 years ago.

It's a thrilling moment in our history and I'm so glad I get to embark on this last chapter with you. To reach a world free of MS it will take all of us — our time, our energy, our resources. I'm grateful to have you by our side in this last chapter as we close the book on MS forever.

Yours truly,

Cyndi Zagieboylo President & CEO National MS Society



# TOGETHER WE'LL GET CLOSER TO A CURE



What does a cure mean to you? Imagine the moment when we discover your cure. That moment is within reach. And we will get there as we have for every other MS breakthrough, together. Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity.

Find out what's on the horizon at pathwaystocures.org.

# CELEBRATING PATHWAYS TO CURES LEAD INVESTORS

Boldly leading a global effort to find cures for MS is no small undertaking but thanks to the transformational support of a special group of philanthropic leaders, we're off to a powerful start. With collective gifts totaling \$12 million, the Pathways to Cures Lead Investors featured below are putting their mark on an MS cure by helping establish the early momentum needed to rally the world.



### Jim & Kathleen Skinner

"A complex disease like MS requires an organization that is in touch with people who have the disease and what they want in their lives—this is apparent in the Pathways to Cures plan. Cures are described clearly, and the discoveries needed to achieve each cure are laid out. We are pleased to be at the front of this incredible work and have confidence that the National MS Society has what it takes to provide leadership in the global MS movement." To learn more about their gift, please visit: https://ntlms.org/skinnergift

### Laura Larson

"I've always been grateful for the Society's warmth when MS turned my life upside down. Its programs taught me what was going on inside my body, taught me coping skills and connected me with others who had MS. Most of all it gave me hope that there WAS a cure, just waiting to be found. The discoveries since my diagnosis nearly 30 years ago have been astounding and we are very close to unlocking the remaining secrets of MS. I want to help us get there. The reason I donate to the National MS Society is simple...so one day no one will hear the words my doctor said to me."





### **Bill and Cathy Onufrychuk**

"We have been actively involved with the National MS Society for 28 years and have never been as optimistic about the potential for real progress toward our goal of finding cures for MS. With the advances in science and technology along with the commitment of some of the most noted researchers in the world NOW is the time to go big so that we can do our part to end MS forever."

We thank these passionate individuals for their extraordinary leadership. They are providing hope for everyone seeking a cure, including Stacy, diagnosed 2005, who shares a cure would mean she can continue to be there for the causes and the people she cares for most. "I'm a wife, a mother, a daughter and a friend. I need a cure for MS because I love being all of those things."

To reach our ambitious goal to cure MS for every single person, we need you too. It will take all of us — working, giving and raising our voices together to reach our destination. To learn more, visit **pathwaystocures.org**.





# **OUR MISSION:**

We will cure MS while empowering people affected by MS to live their best lives.

### LEARN MORE AT PATHWAYSTOCURES.ORG

YOUNG

### **Photos, left to right, top to bottom:** Hannah, diagnosed in 2017; Eric, diagnosed in 2003; Rebecca, diagnosed in 2013; Jennifer, diagnosed in 1999; Brian, diagnosed in 2012; Jennifer, diagnosed in 2000; Angela, diagnosed in 1992; William, diagnosed in 2002; Beth, diagnosed in 2009; David, diagnosed in 1998.



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