List of Current Research Projects Funded by the National MS Society

Sorted by Topic/Pathways to Cures

July 1, 2022

Research Department
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New York, NY

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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, and foster global collaboration between MS researchers.

This document lists MS research projects being funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (USA), sorted Topic, as of July 1, 2022.

**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) 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.

**TBD = to be determined**

**Research Priorities: Pathways to Multiple Sclerosis Cures**
The National MS Society is focused on achieving breakthroughs to cures for multiple sclerosis. Our progress will be hastened with a roadmap that describes the knowledge gaps, milestones and research priorities that will lead to cures for everyone living with MS. The roadmap was developed in consultation with scientific experts, health care providers and people affected by MS. We believe the Pathways to Cures Roadmap will inspire the alignment of global resources on the most pressing questions in MS research and accelerate scientific breakthroughs that lead to cures for everyone living with MS.

The Roadmap includes three Pathways: STOPPING MS disease activity, RESTORING function by reversing damage and symptoms, and ENDING MS by preventing new cases. Research proposals should address critical knowledge gaps in our understanding of the roadmap. Many gaps apply to more than one pathway.

**Goal 1: STOP pathway -- No more disease activity**
Stopping MS is defined as achieving a state of no new disease activity, no worsening of daily living or quality of life, and no change in disease manifestations or clinical activity in people living with either relapsing or progressive forms of MS. Understanding disease heterogeneity across diverse populations of people with all forms of MS over time is important to stopping disease activity and protecting the central nervous system from further assault, and to create a permissive environment for myelin repair and other restoration efforts.

Target areas include **Early Detection**: Reduce or eliminate the impact of MS before neurological deficits accumulate in an individual with MS, and **Precision Medicine**: Achieve no worsening of daily living or quality of life, and no change in disease manifestations, for each individual with MS.

**Goal 2: RESTORE Pathway -- reverse symptoms, and recover function to enable full participation in society**
MS can result in many different symptoms, including vision loss, pain, fatigue, sensory loss, impaired coordination, mobility, and cognitive and mood changes. Symptom severity and duration varies from person to person. Historically, rehabilitation aims to improve symptoms, with medical management of the disease kept separate. There is data supporting the idea that restoration of function, not only symptom management, is possible in MS.
Target areas include **Regeneration**: Improve or enhance tissue repair/regeneration to reverse or slow MS progression and improve symptoms, and **Restoration of Activity**: Advance implementation of rehabilitation and symptom management strategies to restore function, reverse symptoms and enhance quality of life.

**Goal 3: END Pathway -- No new cases of MS (prevention)**

Ending MS is defined as no new cases of MS. Preventing new cases of MS will require population-based public health initiatives and individual-based interventions. While efforts will be made to advance both targets, a focus on Secondary Prevention could potentially lead to the development of approaches with benefits for people living with MS in the near term.

Target areas include **Primary prevention**: To prevent MS before it occurs by limiting exposure to MS risk factors in the general population, and **Secondary prevention**: To reduce or eliminate the impact of MS before onset of signs/symptoms by identifying pre-clinical MS in the high-risk population.

**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 Neuroscience Scholarships** – 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
- **Clinician Scientist Development Award and 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 (this program currently on hold)
- **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
- **RFA** – research projects targeted to specific Pathways to Cures priorities
- **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 Research “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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STopping MS - Achieving a state of no new disease activity, no worsening of daily living or quality of life, and no change in disease manifestations or clinical activity in people living with either relapsing or progressive forms of MS.

Jeff Bulte, PhD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: RFA  
Category: Biochem./Biophysics  
“MALDI identification of CEST MRI biomarkers that may precede and predict the onset of disease in Multiple sclerosis” Researchers at Johns Hopkins are using MRI to see if there are biochemical and other changes in the brain before MS symptoms start, to create an early detection tool for earlier treatment.  
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Dimitrios Davalos, PhD  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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.

Sachin Gadani, MD, PhD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“Defining the role of inflammatory oligodendrocyte precursor cells on chronic inflammation and impaired remyelination in CNS autoimmunity” A team at Johns Hopkins is investigating how myelin repair is blocked when myelin-making cells turn inflammatory, and how to reverse this process.

Alexander Gill, MD, PhD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“Targeting Neurotoxic Inflammatory Glia and NLRX1 in MS/EAE” Scientists at Johns Hopkins are targeting a protein in MS-like disease with an eye toward developing therapies to stop MS.
Shane Liddelow, PhD  
New York University Langone Medical Center  
New York, New York  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“Neurotoxic lipids drive death of oligodendrocytes”  
New York University researchers are investigating a toxin secreted by cells in the brain that affects myelin making cells and their functions in MS-like disease.

Francisco Quintana, PhD  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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

Francisco Quintana, PhD  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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.  
Funded in part by the Donald C. McGraw Foundation

Andrew Steelman, PhD  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Champaign, Illinois  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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
Sebastian Werneburg, PhD
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
“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.

Cory Willis, PhD
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
“Exploring the role of ASTROcytic succinate receptor in neuroinflammation (ASTRO_TOR)” Researchers at the University of Cambridge are exploring how certain brain cells may drive MS progression.

Dritan Agalliu, PhD
Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
“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.

Francesco Bifari, MD, PhD
University of Milan
Milan, Italy
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: CNS Repair
“Branched chain amino acids-induced persistent metabolic shift towards oxidative phosphorylation in immune and neural cells: a potential new therapy for Progressive Multiple Sclerosis” Attempting to address the increased demands on cellular energy of nerve cells damaged by MS inflammation by providing nutrient supplements to the cells to increase their survival.

Peter Calabresi, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
“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.
**Peter Calabresi, MD**  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
“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.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $840,246  
Term: 6/1/2020-5/31/2023

**Yanan Chen, MD, PhD**  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Enhancing the unfolded protein response as a protective therapy for multiple sclerosis”  
Northwestern scientists are exploring a novel strategy for protecting myelin-making cells and promoting myelin preservation and repair in MS.  
Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $605,649  
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

**Gregory Duncan, PhD**  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, Oregon  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Mechanisms of neurodegeneration following remyelination failure”  
Researchers at Oregon Health and Science are investigating signals that cause nerve cells to die when myelin is lost in MS, and whether blocking them could decrease disability.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $584,647  
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

**Claudia Lucchinetti, MD**  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Rochester, Minnesota  
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards  
Category: CNS Repair  
“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  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $825,000  
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2023
Claire McCoy, PhD
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Dublin, Ireland
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: CNS Repair
“Unraveling the role of miRNAs, in particular miR-448 in the demyelination process and its potential as a novel therapeutic in primary progressive MS.” Exploring the role of a microRNA that may be involved in the destruction of myelin, and developing ways to block it as a potential therapy to prevent progression of MS.
Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Weiquan Zhu, PhD
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
“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.

Francesca Bagnato, MD, PhD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
“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.

Francesca Bovis, PhD
University of Genoa
Genoa, Italy
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award
Category: Diagnostic Methods
“Personalizing treatment effect based on patient’s baseline profile: A statistical modelling approach applied to observational study data” A team at the University of Genoa is using statistical methods to identify traits that support a personalized selection of treatment for MS.

Myriam Chaumeil, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
“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.
John Chen, MD, PhD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“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*

Joel Pachter, PhD  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, Connecticut  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“Extracellular vesicles and MSCs as novel tools to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of secondary progressive disease” Investigators are 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.

Laura Piccio, MD, PhD  
Washington University School of Medicine-M  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“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.

Pascal Sati, PhD  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“Evaluation of Paramagnetic Rim Lesions for Early and Precise Detection of Multiple Sclerosis” A team at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is evaluating MRI methods to more accurately diagnose MS.

Teri Schreiner, MD, MPH  
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, Colorado  
Award: RFA  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“Detection and Risk in Earliest MS” University of Colorado researchers are examining close family members of people with MS in search of early evidence and risk factors that could be combined to predict the future onset of MS.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*
Biao Xiang, PhD  
Washington University School of Medicine-M  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
**“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.

Ruth Dobson, PhD  
Queen Mary University of London  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: RFA  
Category: Epidemiology  
**“Window of opportunity: examining modifiable risk factors and prodromes of Multiple Sclerosis in UK primary care datasets”**  
Queen Mary University London researchers are using medical records from people of different backgrounds to identify symptoms occurring before an MS diagnosis, and potentially developing tools for identifying those at the highest risk of MS.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

Amber Salter, PhD, MPH  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, Texas  
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award  
Category: Epidemiology  
**“Investigation of MS Disease Progression Using a Multifactorial Approach”**  
Researchers at UT Southwestern and collaborators are examining MS worsening to uncover predictors of disease progression and improve preemptive care.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

Helen Tremlett, PhD  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Award: RFA  
Category: Epidemiology  
**“Heterogeneity in the MS prodrome and impact on disease progression (PrOMS-HD)”**  
University of British Columbia researchers, along with collaborators across Canada and Sweden, are searching medical records for early, unrecognized warning signs of MS to enable pre-emptive treatment.
Emmanuelle Waubant, MD, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Epidemiology  
“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.

Tanuja Chitnis, MD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research Contracts  
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy  
“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.

Daniel Hartung, MPH, PharMD  
Oregon State University  
Corvalis, Oregon  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy  
“Updating Cost of MS Medication”  
Researchers at Oregon State University are investigating reasons for the escalating costs of MS treatments.

Dominique Kinnett-Hopkins, PhD  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy  
“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.

Ruth Ann Marrie, MD, PhD  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
Award: Research Contracts  
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy  
“University of Manitoba Time and Materials Contract”  
A working group under the auspices of the International Advisory Committee on Clinical Trials in MS will identify gaps in knowledge on women’s health issues specific to women with MS and relevant to clinical trials.
Philip De Jager, MD, PhD  
Columbia University  
New York, New York  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Human Genetics  
“Integrating risk factors and biomarkers for prediction in presymptomatic MS”  
Identifying individuals without symptoms who are at high risk for MS.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, DSc  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Human Genetics  
“Multi-omic predictors of chronic inflammation in multiple sclerosis”  
Exploring the biological and genetic bases for the chronic inflammation that occurs in people with progressive MS, for clues to stopping progression.

Jorge Oksenberg, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Human Genetics  
“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.

Douglas Arnold, MD  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“An MRI biomarker for disability progression for use in clinical trials”  
Identifying a biomarker of disability progression for use in clinical trials.

Pavan Bhargava, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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.
**John Ciotti, MD**
University of South Florida  
Tampa, Florida  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
**“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship”** A promising doctor will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $65,000  
Term: 7/1/2020-TBD

**John Corboy, MD**
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, Colorado  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
**“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.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $326,464  
Term: 10/1/2016-9/30/2022

**Cristina Gaudioso, MD**
Washington University in St. Louis  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
**“Clinical and Translational Research Training in Adult and Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis”** 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.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $195,000  
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

**Kimystian Harrison, MD**
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
**“Clinical Trials Training in Multiple Sclerosis”** A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $195,500  
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

**Victoria Levasseur, MD**
Washington University in St. Louis  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
**“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.  
Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Estimated Funding: $130,000  
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2023
Ellen Mowry, MD, MCR  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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.

MS Society UK,  
MS Society UK  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“Partial support for the Phase 3 clinical trial of simvastatin in 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.

Bardia Nourbakhsh, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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.

Daniel Ontaneda, MD, PhD  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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.

Samantha Roman, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“MS Clinical Trials Fellowship”  
A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.
Lindsay Ross, MD  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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.

Neda Sattarnezhad Oskouei, MD  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Fellowship with Training in Epidemiology and Clinical Research” A promising doctor at Stanford University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Klaus Schmierer, MD, PhD  
Queen Mary University of London  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“Chariot MS - MRI Substudy” Researchers in the United Kingdom are testing whether a disease-modifying therapy can preserve upper limb function in people with advanced MS.

Alexandra Simpson, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“Targeting Remyelination, Repair Mechanisms, and Symptom Management in Multiple Sclerosis through Clinical Trials” A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.  
Paid by the Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation and J. David Power, III

Rebecca Spain, MD, MSPH  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, Oregon  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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.
**Elizabeth Verter, MD**  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York, New York  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
**“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship”**  
A promising doctor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

**Clare Baecher-Allan, PhD**  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
**“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.

**Amit Bar-Or, MD**  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Immunology  
**“Linking multiple disease compartments in T1D and Multiple Sclerosis”**  
Exploring similarities and differences in the damaging immune attacks in MS and Type 1 diabetes for clues to better therapies.

**Pavan Bhargava, MD**  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Immunology  
**“Understanding the contributions of metabolic dysfunction to MS pathophysiology”**  
Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are exploring how byproducts of energy processes in immune and brain cells may contribute to MS development.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

**Massimiliano Calabrese, MD**  
University of Verona  
Verona, Italy  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Immunology  
**“Detecting the immunological basis of neurodegeneration and microglial activation in early MS patients”**  
Identifying biomarkers that may detect and enable prevention of early damage to parts of the brain that are associated with more rapid disease progression.  
*Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members*
**Claudia Cantoni, PhD**  
Washington University School of Medicine-Missouri  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

**Bogoljub Ciric, PhD**  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

**Bonnie Dittel, PhD**  
Versiti Blood Research Institute  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

**Marika Falcone, MD, PhD**  
Fondazione Centro San Raffaele  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

**Marjan Gharagozloo, PhD**  
Johns Hopkins University  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“Investigating the role of NLRX1 in glia-mediated inflammation and neurotoxicity using experimental models of multiple sclerosis” Johns Hopkins researchers are investigating the role of a molecule in brain inflammation in mice with an MS-like disease.
Laura Ghezzi, MD
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
“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.

Murugaiyan Gopal, PhD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
“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.

Oksana Goroshchuk, MD, PhD
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
“Sex differences in multiple sclerosis” A Yale team is researching changes to immune cells related to male and female sex hormones and genetic differences to understand sex differences in MS.

Daniel Hawiger, MD, PhD
Saint Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
“Dendritic cellsorchestrated 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.

Christopher Hemond, MD
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Category: Immunology
“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.
**Kevan Herold, MD**  
Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Immunology  
“Analysis of antigen specific T cells in response to immune therapies in MS and T1D”  
Exploring how therapies for MS and Type 1 diabetes change immune cells and searching for blood markers to track disease development.

**Dan Hu, PhD**  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“Heat shock protein-mediated regulation of T cell responses in Multiple Sclerosis”  
A team at Brigham and Women’s is investigating the role of a protein called Hsp70 in regulating the balance between aggressive and calming immune responses linked to MS.  
_Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund_

**Mahsa Khayatkhoei, MD**  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“The Role of Monocytes in Progressive Multiple Sclerosis”  
A team at Brigham and Women’s is testing the importance of immune cells called monocytes in progressive forms of MS.

**Robyn Klein, MD, PhD**  
Washington University School of Medicine-M  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

**Dimitry Krementsov, PhD**  
University of Vermont and State Agricultural College  
Burlington, Vermont  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.
Yoon-Chul Kye, PhD  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“The role of immune checkpoint molecules on B cell in CNS autoimmune diseases”  
Researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital are determining how to optimize and improve upon therapies that target immune B cells in people with MS.

Qin Ma, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“Integrated B cells epigenetic and transcriptome analysis in multiple sclerosis”  
UCSF researchers are investigating genetic changes in immune B cells from people with MS compared to people without MS for clues to stopping MS.

Booki Min, D.V.M., PhD  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“The role of Foxp3+ regulatory T cells during glucocorticoid treatment of autoimmunity”  
Northwestern University 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.  
*Paid by a gift from the Kaufer Family and with support from the Illinois Lottery*

Carson Moseley, MD, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards  
Category: Immunology  
“Mechanistic studies of MOG-specific CD4+ T cell differentiation in MOGAD”  
A team at the University of California, San Francisco is investigating the role of immune T cells and B cells and their interaction in attacks on myelin.

Laura Piccio, MD, PhD  
Washington University School of Medicine-M  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.
**Joseph Sabatino, MD, PhD**
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology

“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.

**Farinaz Safavi, MD, PhD**
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Immunology

“Role of B cells in development of meningeal tertiary lymphoid structures” NIH researchers are exploring the role that specific B cell subtypes play in the development of inflammation in MS, and how ocrelizumab affects these cells.

**Naresha Saligrama, PhD**
Washington University School of Medicine-M St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology

“Understanding T cell receptor diversity and specificity in Multiple sclerosis and Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis” A 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.

**David Scott, PhD**
Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology

“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.

**Mari Shinohara, PhD**
Duke University Medical Center
Charlotte, North Carolina
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology

“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.
Elif Sozmen, MD, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards  
Category: Immunology  
“Study the Role of Fibrinogen in Autoimmune Responses in Multiple Sclerosis”  
UCSF researchers are exploring a therapeutic strategy targeting fibrinogen, a protein associated with damage in MS.  
*Paid by the Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation and J. David Power, III*

Yisong Wan, PhD  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

Chao Wang, PhD  
Sunnybrook Research Institute  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“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.

Liwei Wang, PhD  
New York University Langone Medical Center  
New York, New York  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“Investigation of novel ion channels as potential next-generation therapeutic targets for MS”  
A team at NYU is exploring the potential of a therapeutic strategy for MS based on proteins on cell surfaces and inside of cells known as ion channels.

Wei-Le Wang, PhD  
Washington University in St. Louis  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Immunology  
“B cell tolerance at the CNS borders: a role for meningeal B cell in multiple sclerosis?”  
Researchers at Washington University in St. Louis are exploring the role of immune B cells in the blood and in the casing surrounding the brain in MS-like disease.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Research Pathway</th>
<th>Estimated Funding</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<td>Onur Afacan, PhD</td>
<td>Boston Children’s Hospital</td>
<td>Measuring MS Disease Activity</td>
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<td>10/1/2019-3/31/2023</td>
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<td>Christina Azevedo, MD, MPH</td>
<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>Stopping MS</td>
<td>$433,847</td>
<td>10/1/2018-9/30/2022</td>
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</table>

**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.

**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.

**Isolation and characterization of myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein monoclonal antibodies**  
Researchers at Yale are exploring a mechanism for the damage that occurs to nerve-insulating myelin in MS.

**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.

**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.
Christina Azevedo, MD, MPH  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
"Understanding Mechanisms of Deep Grey Matter Injury Using MRI in Patients with MS"  
Researchers at the University of Southern California are using advanced imaging techniques to better understand the damage that occurs in MS for clues to stopping it.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

Brenda Banwell, MD  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
"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.

Erin Beck, MD, PhD  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
New York, New York  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
"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.

Mary Catanese, PhD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
"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.  
*Funded in full by a gift from the Kaufer Family*

Leigh Charvet, PhD  
New York University Langone Medical Center  
New York, New York  
Award: RFA  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
"Intra-Individual Variability in Cognitive Performance as a Marker of Prodromal Disability in MS"  
Researchers at New York University are cataloging subtle variations in thinking speed to see if they can be an early predictor of future disability in MS and inform ways to stop progression.
Jeremy Chataway, MD, PhD
University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“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.

Blake Dewey, PhD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“Validating spinal cord imaging outcomes for evaluating patient progression” Researchers at Johns Hopkins University are exploring novel strategies for tracking the transition of people to progressive MS.

Jeff Dunn, PhD
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“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.

An Goris, PhD
University of Leuven
Leuven, Belgium
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“Early microglial activation contributes to long-term progression in MS” University of Leuven researchers are testing “big data” to answer the question of why MS is so different between individuals who live with this disease.

Daniel Harrison, MD
University of Maryland, Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“Development of a Convolutional Neural Network for MRI Prediction of Progression and Treatment Response in Progressive Forms of Multiple Sclerosis” University of Maryland researchers are testing a novel technology to predict MS progression and the effects treatment for progressive MS.
| **Elena Herranz Muelas, PhD** | Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“**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. |
| **David Leppert, MD** | Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
University Hospital Basel  
Basel, Switzerland  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“**Neurofilament light chain (NfL) turnover in blood circulation in physiological conditions and animal models of MS**” Improving understanding of a biomarker, neurofilament light chain, to advance its use for predicting progression of MS and monitoring treatment responses. |
| **Robert McBurney, PhD** | Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Accelerated Cure Project for MS  
Waltham, Massachusetts  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“**COVID-19 Vaccine Response in MS Project (COVER-MS Project)**” iConquerMS is gathering important information related to the COVID-19 vaccines and how they work in people affected by MS. |
| **Darin Okuda, MD** | Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, Texas  
Award: RFA  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“**Improved risk stratification in radiologically isolated syndrome (RIS) through identified serum and CSF biomarkers**” Researchers at UT Southwestern and collaborators are searching for a marker in the blood or spinal fluid that will help predict whether a person with incidental MRI brain lesions will go on to develop MS. |
| **Dzung Pham, PhD** | Research Pathway: Stopping MS  
Henry M. Jackson Foundation  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“**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. |
Alexander Rauscher, PhD  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“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.  
Estimated Funding: $309,320  
Term: 4/1/2016-3/31/2023

Shiv Saidha, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“In-vivo investigation of retinal and cerebral vascular and metabolic dysfunction, and determination of their clinical significance in multiple sclerosis”  
Johns Hopkins researchers are assessing how efficiently nerve tissue is processing energy in people with MS, for clues to identifying people who may benefit from stronger therapies, and to find new strategies for treating MS.  
Estimated Funding: $606,133  
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2023

Amber Salter, PhD, MPH  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, Texas  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“Metadata Catalogue Project”  
A team is aiming to establish a metadata catalogue and to increase the feasibility of harmonizing disability measures across registries.  
Estimated Funding: $111,373  
Term: 4/1/2021-6/30/2023

Kanika Sharma, MD  
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“Fellowship Training in Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Trials at the NIH”  
A promising doctor at the NIH will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.  
Estimated Funding: $65,000  
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2023

Elias Sotirchos, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“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.  
Estimated Funding: $148,500  
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025  
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund
Elizabeth Sweeney, PhD  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“Evaluation of and Automated Image Analysis Tools for a QSM Rim Positive Multiple Sclerosis Lesion Biomarker”  
Developing new, automated ways to analyze brain scans to better detect the benefits of MS therapies against chronic inflammation.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

Ceren Tozlu, PhD  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
New York, New York  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“Mapping multi-modal brain features to impairment severity in people with MS using machine learning”  
Researchers at Weill Cornell Medical College are using advanced technology to streamline the process of diagnosing and tracking MS.

Charidimos Tsagkas, MD, PhD  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“Molecular Imaging of CNS-Immune System Interactions in Multiple Sclerosis”  
NIH researchers are developing an imaging method that may allow better visualization of inflammation in the brain and spinal cord in MS.

Howard Weiner, MD  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“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.

Laura Airas, MD, PhD  
Turku University Hospital  
Turku, Finland  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Neuropathology  
“Exploring the role of A2A adenosine receptor in the pathogenesis of progressive MS”  
A team in Finland is testing a potential therapy for reducing nerve degeneration that leads to gradual disability progression, independent of relapses.  
*Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members*
Wesley Brandão, PhD  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Neuropathology  
“The role of APOE-mediated neurodegenerative microglia subset on T cell response and functions in EAE”  
A team at Brigham and Women’s Hospital is studying the role of immune brain cells called microglia in MS progression.

Jordan Dworkin, PhD  
Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc.  
New York, New York  
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award  
Category: Neuropathology  
“Mapping multi-modal relationships among lesions and clinical outcomes in MS”  
Researchers at Columbia are using advanced methods to understand and predict how the locations of MS brain lesions link to symptoms and outcomes.  
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Jennifer Gommerman, PhD  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Neuropathology  
“Innate immune–Glial cell crosstalk in progressive MS.”  
Studying a region of the brain to determine how damage may occur that affects cognitive function in people with progressive MS.

Simon Hametner, MD, PhD  
Medical University of Vienna  
Vienna, Austria  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Neuropathology  
“Multimodal decoding of CD163 immune cell function in progressive MS”  
Uncovering the role of an immune-related protein that may be linked to MS disease severity, for clues to developing better treatments for progressive disease.

Jeannette Lechner-Scott, MD, PhD  
University of Newcastle - Australia  
Callaghan, New South Wales, Australia  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Neuropathology  
“Epigenetics of MS progression”  
Uncovering factors that may alter cell functions and may lead to progressive MS.
**Antonio Luchicchi, PhD**  
VU University Medical Center  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Neuropathology  
“**Blistering of the axon-myelin unit as prodromal stage of axonal degeneration in progressive MS: the role of calpain-cathepsin axis.**” Exploring whether the interaction between myelin and the nerve fibers it coats might be altered in MS, leading to progression, for clues to new strategies that stop MS.  
*Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members*

**Kenneth Smith, PhD**  
University College London  
London, United Kingdom  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: Neuropathology  
“**Understanding the molecular pathways involved in protection from secondary progressive disease**” Exploring mechanisms responsible for the loss of nerve cells in progressive MS and potential ways to protect against it.  
*Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members*

**Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, PhD**  
University of California, Riverside  
Riverside, California  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Neuropathology  
“**Purkinje Neuron Mitochondrial Dynamics in the Demyelinating Cerebellum**” Researchers at the University of California, Riverside are studying how inflammation affects energy sources of nerve cells and testing drugs in mice to find possible solutions.  

**Yuyi You, MD, PhD**  
Macquarie University  
North Ryde, New South Wales  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Neuropathology  
“**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.

**Alexandr Klistorner, PhD**  
Macquarie University  
North Ryde, New South Wales, Australia  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Neurophysiology  
“**Investigating mechanisms of axonal degeneration in multiple sclerosis**” What are the mechanisms that drive progressive nervous system damage in MS?
Frederike Oertel, MD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Neurophysiology  
“Dissecting selective vulnerability of neurons and axons using the afferent visual system in animal models of demyelination and inflammation”  
UCSF Researchers are exploring why some nerve cells are more susceptible to damage in MS, for clues to preventing MS progression.

Shailendra Giri, PhD  
Henry Ford Health System/Henry Ford Health Sciences Center  
Detroit, Michigan  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Physiology  
“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.

James Waschek, PhD  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, California  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Physiology  
“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.

Mingnan Chen, PhD  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Preclinical Drug Development  
“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.

Shailendra Giri, PhD  
Henry Ford Health System/Henry Ford Health Sciences Center  
Detroit, Michigan  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Preclinical Drug Development  
“Specialized pro-resolving mediator, maresin 1, abrogates EAE disease progression”  
Henry Ford Health Sciences Center researchers are testing a molecule in mice with an MS-like disease for its potential for decreasing MS-related brain inflammation.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund
Sasha Gupta, MD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
“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.

Eve Kelland, PhD
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
“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.

Milos Simic, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
“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.

Heather Wishart, PhD
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic
Lebanon, New Hampshire
Award: Research Grants
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
“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.

Jared Bruce, PhD
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Kansas, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
“Development of a telehealth obesity intervention for patients with MS” 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.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund
Phillip Rumrill, PhD  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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.

Joshua Sandry, PhD  
Montclair State University  
Montclair, New Jersey  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“Neuroimaging of Hippocampally Mediated Memory Dysfunction in Multiple Sclerosis”  
A team at Montclair State is exploring changes in brain structure that underlie memory and cognitive problems in people with MS.

Philip De Jager, MD, PhD  
Columbia University  
New York, New York  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks  
“National Multiple Sclerosis Tissue Repository Network (Award 1 of 3)”  
Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

David Pitt, MD  
Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks  
“National Multiple Sclerosis Tissue Repository Network (Award 2 of 3)”  
Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Daniel Reich, MD, PhD  
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks  
“National Multiple Sclerosis Tissue Repository Network (Award 3 of 3)”  
Developing and maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.
RESTORING FUNCTION -- Reversing symptoms and improving or enhancing tissue repair/regeneration to reverse or slow MS progression and improve symptoms and enhance quality of life.

**Charles Abrams, MD**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
*“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*

**Katrina Adams, PhD**  
The Children's National Medical Center  
Washington, District of Columbia  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Biology of Glia  
*“Elucidating molecular mechanisms of neural stem cell-derived gliogenesis in remyelination”* Researchers at Children's National Hospital are exploring how myelin-making cells derived from stem cells might be used to repair myelin in MS models.

**Manzoor Bhat, PhD**  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
*“Restoration of Axonal Domains in Myelinated Axons and Prevention of Motor Disability”* Scientists at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio are developing models to determine how damage to nerve cells and fibers occurs in MS and how it can be reversed to restore function.

**Ethan Hughes, PhD**  
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, Colorado  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
*“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*
Monica Langley, PhD
Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
“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.

Hyun Kyoung Lee, PhD
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
“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.

Kelly Monk, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
“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.

Hiroko Nobuta, PhD
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, New Jersey
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
“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.

Brian Popko, PhD
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
“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.
Teresa Wood, PhD  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Piscataway, New Jersey  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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.

J. Bradley Zuchero, PhD  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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.

Ludovico Cantuti-Castelvetri, PhD  
Technical University of Munich  
Munich, Germany  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Targeting cell stress to enhance remyelination in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis” Exploring a mechanism that may prevent normal repair of nerve-insulating myelin in MS, and testing a potential strategy in mouse models to promote myelin repair.

Benjamin Clayton, PhD  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Functional Genetic Screen Identifies a Novel Remyelination Target in MS” Case Western Reserve researchers are identifying new targets for treatments that could repair the damage that occurs to the nervous system in people with MS.

Stephen Crocker, PhD  
University of Connecticut Health Center  
Farmington, Connecticut  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
“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.
Richard Dortch, PhD
St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, Arizona
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
“Turnkey MRI Biomarkers of Myelin Repair” Barrow Neurological Institute researchers are developing a more sensitive and specific method of measuring nerve-insulating myelin and its repair using MRI.

Jessica Fletcher, PhD
University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: CNS Repair
“Identifying novel phosphorylation events to drive myelin repair” Studying the factors that promote cells to make new nerve-insulating myelin, for clues to activating its repair to restore function in people with MS. *Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members*

Jeffrey Huang, PhD
Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: CNS Repair
“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. *Funded in part by the Al Otaiba Family*

Trevor Kilpatrick, PhD
Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
“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. *Funded in part by the Donald C. McGraw Foundation*
**Qing Lu, PhD**  
Children’s Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Small molecule modulators of chromatin remodeling for myelin repair” Researchers at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati are exploring the role of the molecule HDAC3 in inhibiting myelin repair and testing ways to stop it to enhance repair in MS.

**Wendy Macklin, PhD**  
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, Colorado  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Impact of recombinant MS antibodies on remyelination” University of Colorado scientists are investigating the role of antibodies that may block myelin repair in people with MS.

**Alyssa Nylander, MD, PhD**  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards  
Category: CNS Repair  
“Cognition as a meaningful, quantitative outcome for myelin repair: establishing a translational approach for advancing from preclinical assessments to clinical trials” UCSF researchers are exploring the relationship between myelin repair and cognitive ability in people with MS and mouse models of the disease.

**Mathilde Pruvost, PhD**  
Research Foundation of CUNY-ASRC  
New York, New York  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: CNS Repair  
“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.

**Saud Sadiq, MD**  
Tisch MS Research Center of New York  
NEW YORK, New York  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: CNS Repair  
“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.
**Isobel Scarisbrick, PhD**
Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, Minnesota
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair

“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.

**Christine Stadelmann, MD**
University Medical Center Goettingen
Göttingen, Germany
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair

“Identification of pro-remyelinating factors in remyelinating multiple sclerosis lesions” Determining how cell communication in areas of myelin damage may be especially important for efficient myelin repair.

**Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, PhD**
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair

“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.

**Bernard Zalc, MD, PhD**
Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle epiniere - ICM
Paris, France
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: CNS Repair

“Microglia and remyelination” Using novel models and advanced technologies to explore how microglia, which are immune cells in the brain, may play a role in the repair of myelin in MS.

**Bing Yao, PhD**
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods

“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.
Kathryn Fitzgerald, DSc  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Career Transition Fellowships  
Category: Epidemiology  
“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*

Riley Bove, MD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“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*

Myla Goldman, MD  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, Virginia  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“Assessment of the Clinical Importance of Insulin Resistance & Steroid-Associated Hyperglycemia in Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis”  
A team from Virginia Commonwealth University is exploring whether controlling blood sugar can decrease the severity and/or improve recovery from an acute MS relapse.

Bardia Nourbakhsh, MD  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“New measurement tools for assessing a novel targeted treatment of multiple sclerosis fatigue”  
Johns Hopkins researchers are testing a potential treatment for fatigue in people with MS and evaluating new ways of measuring MS fatigue.

Anastasia Vishnevetsky, MD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships  
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS  
“Addressing Fatigue and Quality of Life in Multiple Sclerosis: A Clinical Trials Training Plan”  
A promising doctor at Mass General will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.
Kouichi Ito, PhD
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
“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.

Valerie Block, DSc, PT
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“Moving MS bladder dysfunction into the 21st Century: developing novel and accessible ways to treat, predict and prevent dysfunction in the home” A UCSF team is developing a solution for bladder problems in people with MS.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Thomas Covey, PhD
The State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“A novel method for the investigation of the neural underpinnings of performance on the Symbol Digit Modalities Test in Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at The State University of New York at Buffalo are determining how a standard test of cognitive impairment in MS reflects actual brain function.

Karen Ho, PhD
Clene Nanomedicine
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Fast Forward
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“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.

Ilana Katz Sand, MD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
“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.
Ralph Kern, MD  
Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics  
New York, New York  
Award: Fast Forward  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“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  
Partially funded in memory of Shirely M. Schiffer

Caterina Mainero, MD, PhD  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“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.

Robert McBurney, PhD  
Accelerated Cure Project for MS  
Waltham, Massachusetts  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“Pathways to Cures Project Collaboration”  
Collaborating with iConquerMS patient powered platform to gain input on research priorities and impacts.

Thanh Nguyen, PhD  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
New York, New York  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity  
“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.

Gustavo Della Flora Nunes, PhD  
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, Colorado  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Neurophysiology  
“The role of remyelination in restoration of neural function and motor behavior”  
University of Colorado researchers are investigating whether the repair of nerve-insulating myelin leads to recovery of physical functions.
Douglas Feinstein, PhD  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Preclinical Drug Development  
"Accelerating remyelination with lanthionine ketimine"  
A team at the University of Illinois at Chicago is testing a compound in mice for its potential for increasing myelin repair in people with MS.  
*Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery*

Gianvito Martino, MD  
Fondazione Centro San Raffaele  
Milan, Italy  
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center  
Category: Preclinical Drug Development  
"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*

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, PhD  
University of California, Riverside  
Riverside, California  
Award: Fast Forward  
Category: Preclinical Drug Development  
"Remyelination and Immunomodulation with analogues of Chloroindazole"  
Research performed at the University of California, Riverside is focused on the role of Estrogen Receptor beta (ERβ) selective compounds on promoting remyelination in MS.

Dawn Ehde, PhD  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
"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.
Stefan Gold, PhD  
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin  
Berlin, Germany  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
“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.

Mark Jensen, PhD  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
“Hypnosis and Mindfulness Meditation for Fatigue Management in MS” A University of Washington team is evaluating the effects of two highly accessible ways for individuals with MS to learn either self-hypnosis or mindfulness strategies for fatigue management on their own, without needing to work with a trained clinician.

Anna Kratz, PhD  
Regents of the University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
“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.

Lauren Krupp, MD  
New York University Langone Medical Center  
New York, New York  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
“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.

Victoria Leavitt, PhD  
eSupport Health, PBC  
Montclair, New Jersey  
Award: Fast Forward  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
“eSupport: Telehealth platform for the delivery of online support groups for persons with MS” This commercial funding supports company infrastructure and a clinical trial to establish the benefit of eSupport online support groups for Black and Latinx people with MS, a group historically underrepresented in MS research studies.
**Ivan Molton, PhD**  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS  
**“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.

**Deborah Backus, PT, PhD**  
Shepherd Center  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Rehabilitation  
**“Comparative Effectiveness of an Exercise Intervention Delivered via Telehabilitation 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.

**Michelle Cameron, MD, PT**  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, Oregon  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
**“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.

**Chung-Yi Chiu, PhD**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Champaign, Illinois  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
**“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*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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**Research Pathway: Restoring Function**

**“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.

**“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.

**“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.

**“MS Fellowship in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation”** Experienced mentors/researchers at the Kessler Foundation are training promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

**“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.
Nora Fritz, PT, PhD  
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan  
Award: Pilot Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“Ambulatory Measurement of Perceived and Performance Fatigability” Wayne State researchers are exploring how to measure "fatiguability" in people with MS where it matters most, in the home environment.

Nora Fritz, PT, PhD  
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“TRAIN-BW: Feasibility, Acceptability and Impact of Backward Walking Training in Persons with MS” Researchers at Wayne State are testing the feasibility of backward walking training to prevent falls and improve mobility in people with MS.

Nora Fritz, PT, PhD  
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“Advancing Rehabilitation Research for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis” Rehabilitation researchers at Wayne State University are training postdoctoral scientists in how to conduct MS research aimed at reversing symptoms and restoring function.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

Elizabeth Gromisch, PhD  
Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, Hartford, Connecticut  
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“Development and Feasibility of a Fatigue Self-Management mHealth Program for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis” Researchers at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital are testing a program that may reduce the devastating effects of MS-related fatigue.

Wan-Yu Hsu, OTR, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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.
<table>
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</table>

**Award:** Pilot Research Grants  
**Category:** Rehabilitation  
**Title:** “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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abbey Hughes, PhD</td>
<td>Restoring Function</td>
<td>$447,216</td>
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<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
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**Award:** Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
**Category:** Rehabilitation  
**Title:** “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.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Research Pathway</th>
<th>Estimated Funding</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric Klawiter, MD</td>
<td>Restoring Function</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
<td>2/1/2020-1/31/2023</td>
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<td>Massachusetts General Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston, Massachusetts</td>
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**Award:** Pilot Research Grants  
**Category:** Rehabilitation  
**Title:** “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*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Research Pathway</th>
<th>Estimated Funding</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Leavitt, PhD</td>
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<td>$489,489</td>
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<td>Columbia University</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York, New York</td>
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**Award:** Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
**Category:** Rehabilitation  
**Title:** “Cognitive Rehabilitation in MS: Translating Neuroscience from Laboratory to Life”  
Experienced mentors/researchers at Columbia University are training promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.  
*Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Research Pathway</th>
<th>Estimated Funding</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<td>Donald Lein, PT, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birmingham, Alabama</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Award:** Strategic Initiatives  
**Category:** Rehabilitation  
**Title:** “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.
David Morris, PT, PhD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Rehabilitation
“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, PhD
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: Rehabilitation
“Healthy Aging through LifesTyle in Multiple Sclerosis: The HALT MS Research Center” Researchers have joined together to stimulate interdisciplinary research on lifestyle and wellness for healthy aging in MS.

Robert Motl, PhD
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
“Training in Physical Activity Promotion for Multiple Sclerosis” Rehabilitation researchers have received funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

Lara Pilutti, PhD
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
“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, PhD
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
“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.
Matthew Plow, PhD  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“Training Nurse Scientists to Improve the Outcomes of Rehabilitation Interventions in People with Multiple Sclerosis”  
Rehabilitation researchers at Case Western Reserve University are training scientist nurses how to conduct MS research aimed at reversing symptoms and restoring function.

Jacob Sosnoff, PhD  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
Kansas City, Kansas  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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.

Elizabeth Tricomi, PhD  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Piscataway, New Jersey  
Award: Pilot Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“Examining the value of feedback on cognitive performance in Multiple Sclerosis”  
Rutgers researchers are examining how much people with MS value getting feedback about their performance, and how the amount they seek or avoid feedback influences how much they learn.

Aaron Turner, PhD  
University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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.

Feng Yang, PhD  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Award: Pilot Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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.
E. Yeh, MD  
The Hospital for Sick Children  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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, MD  
The Hospital for Sick Children  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Rehabilitation  
“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.

ENDING MS -- Preventing new cases of MS before it occurs in the general population and in individuals at high risk for developing MS.

Mahmoud Pouladi, PhD  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Biology of Glia  
“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.

Daniel Hawiger, MD, PhD  
Saint Louis University  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: RFA  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“Detecting autoimmune potential of CD4+ T cells in the early MS disease process” Saint Louis University investigators are search for novel immune cell fingerprints that would indicate pre-symptom MS to speed diagnosis earlier in the disease.

Marwa Kaisey, MD  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Los Angeles, California  
Award: RFA  
Category: Diagnostic Methods  
“Blood Biomarkers for Early Detection of Multiple Sclerosis” Cedars-Sinai researchers are searching for a marker in the blood that could help diagnose MS earlier, which may enable better treatment outcomes.
Marianna Cortese, MD, PhD
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Pilot Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
“Changes in the human virome and the risk of multiple sclerosis” Harvard researchers are using a novel technology to screen for prior infections by hundreds of viruses to examine whether these could play a role for the development of MS.

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $55,000
Term: 7/1/2020-9/30/2022

Naila Makhani, MD, MPH
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Epidemiology
“Biomarkers Associated with Multiple Sclerosis in Children with Radiologically Isolated Syndrome” A team at Yale University is investigating which children with unexpected abnormalities on brain scans to better predict who are most likely to develop MS.

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $604,695
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Kassandra Munger, DSc
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: RFA
Category: Epidemiology
“Expanding our understanding of the MS prodrome phenotype—a prospective study in two large cohorts of women” Harvard researchers are using long-range health data to detect early signs of MS up to 15 years before symptoms appear.

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $282,093
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2023

Tomas Olsson, MD, PhD
Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm, Sweden
Award: RFA
Category: Epidemiology
“Early detection of multiple sclerosis: a life-course epidemiological and biomarker approach” Researchers at Sweden’s Karolinska Institute are taking advantage of a depth of national medical and other data to detect MS risk factors and windows of exposure to explain how combinations of factors lead to MS.

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $298,040
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2023

Lisa Barcellos, PhD, MPH
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Human Genetics
“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.
Ashley Beecham, PhD
University of Miami
Coral Gables, Florida
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Human Genetics
“Utilizing a multi-omics approach to identify genetic contributors to multiple sclerosis in a multi-ethnic population of Hispanics and African Americans” Researchers at the University of Miami are identifying genes that contribute to making Black Americans and Hispanic/Latinx people susceptible to MS.

Matthew Lincoln, MD, PhD
Unity Health Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Human Genetics
“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.

Jorge Oksenberg, PhD
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: RFA
Category: Human Genetics
“Integration of polygenic risk scores with non-genetic risk factors to improve risk prediction in MS” UCSF scientists are combining genetic profiles with demographic and environmental variables to identify people with elevated risk for developing MS.

Theron Casper, PhD
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
“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.

Manuel Comabella, MD, PhD
Hospital Vall Hebron
Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
“Search of prognostic factors of conversion to multiple sclerosis in patients with radiologically isolated syndrome” Barcelona researchers are seeking ways to predict whether people with unexpected abnormalities on brain scans are most likely to develop MS.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund
Brian Edelson, MD, PhD  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“T cell-intrinsic roles for the ZFP36 family proteins in MS and EAE” A team at Washington University in St. Louis is investigating how specific MS risk genes influence the activity of immune T cells in MS.  
Research Pathway: Ending MS  
Estimated Funding: $595,050  
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Lisa Ann Gerdes, MD  
University Hospital LMU Munich Germany  
Munich, Germany  
Award: RFA  
Category: Immunology  
“Disease-triggering potential of microbiota in prodromal MS” Researchers in Munich are studying gut bacteria in twins with and without MS to identify possible risk factors that trigger MS.  
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund  
Research Pathway: Ending MS  
Estimated Funding: $297,000  
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2023

Joseph Sabatino, MD, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“Antigen specificity and cross-reactivity of clonally expanded CD8+ T cells in multiple sclerosis” A team at the University of California, San Francisco is determining the targets recognized by immune cells in the spinal fluid of people with MS for clues to what triggers MS.  
Research Pathway: Ending MS  
Estimated Funding: $584,536  
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Michael Wilson, MD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: RFA  
Category: Immunology  
“Risk Factors for Preclinical MS: The ENGEMS Cohort (Environmental and Genetic Risks for MS)” UCSF researchers are developing profiles of early exposures to infectious agents such as viruses to understand whether they play a role in triggering MS later.  
Research Pathway: Ending MS  
Estimated Funding: $310,313  
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2023

Chuan Wu, MD, PhD  
National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Immunology  
“How might dietary salt influence the behavior of immune cells in MS?"  
Research Pathway: Ending MS  
Estimated Funding: $365,626  
Term: 7/1/2017-TBD
Rosella Mechelli, PhD  
Università Telematica San Raffaele Roma  
Rome, Italy  
Award: Research Grants  
Category: Infectious Agents  
“EBV genotyping in MS” Investigators in Rome, Italy are confirming and clarifying the possible role of specific strains of Epstein-Barr virus as a triggering factor in MS.

Michelle Pleet, PhD  
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships  
Category: Neuropathology  
“Origin and Cargo of CSF EVs from MS patients as Signatures of Disease” A team at NIH is investigating the importance of extracellular vesicles, which are packets of information released from cells into the blood, in MS.

John Corboy, MD  
University of Colorado Denver  
Denver, Colorado  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks  
“Rocky Mountain MS Center Tissue Bank” Maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Jorge Oksenberg, PhD  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California  
Award: Strategic Initiatives  
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks  
“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.