National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

List of Current Research Projects Funded by the National MS Society

Sorted by Topic/Pathways to Cures

November 2023

Research Department
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New York, NY

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www.nationalmssociety.org

Introduction

The National MS Society invests in promising research to drive Pathways to Cures 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 and funders.

This document lists MS research projects being funded by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (USA), sorted by state and country, as of November 1, 2023.

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 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

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:

- **Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Awards** – supported by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund, these awards create protected time to collaborate with an established MS research group to develop expertise in MS clinical trials and other data analysis
- **Career Transition Fellowships** – awards up to 5 years to facilitate the advancement of promising young investigators into full faculty positions
- **Clinician Scientist Development Award** -- to train physicians in MS clinical research. Some of these are co-supported by the American Brain Foundation (ABF)
- **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 5-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
- **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 the general type of research a specific project entails.

- **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
- I**mmunology** - 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

Contents

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.

Dimitrios Davalos, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $563,135
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2024

"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, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $297,114
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.
ABF Awardee

Erin Gibson, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $586,601
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Targeting circadian mechanisms of degeneration in myelin disorder" Stanford scientists are exploring whether alterations in circadian rhythms in MS-like disease contributes to a failure in the natural capacity for myelin repair.

Alexander Gill, M.D., Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $293,307
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

"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.
ABF Awardee

Shane Liddelow, Ph.D.
New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $404,917
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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.

Jing-Ping Lin, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $606,065
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

"Identifying signaling modules that drive glial senescence in a model of multiple sclerosis" NIH researchers are studying the involvement of specific brain cells in the destruction and restoration nervous system tissues during aging and in MS-like inflammation for clues to stopping disease activities and enhancing repair.

Luca Peruzzotti-Jametti, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $599,422
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"METAbolic control of smoldering NEUROinflammation (META_NEURO)" A team at the University of Cambridge is investigating miscommunication between cells in the brain that may occur during the course of progressive MS.

David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $634,841
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Astrocyte network disruption in perilesional white matter is mediated by adenosine A2A receptors and contributes to multiple sclerosis progression." Yale University scientists are investigating a docking protein on brain support cells called astrocytes and whether it plays a role in MS progression.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center
Category: Biology of Glia

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $7,551,836
Term: 1/1/2017-12/31/2025

"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 part by an Anonymous Donor

Carmen Sato-Bigbee, Ph.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $600,000
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Nociceptin role in the progression of multiple sclerosis" Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University are targeting a protein that may promote MS progression, for clues to stopping MS in its tracks.

Sebastian Werneburg, Ph.D.
Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $432,082
Term: 9/1/2023-8/31/2026

"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.
Funded in part by the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund

Jessica Williams, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Biology of Glia

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $660,000
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"The role of astrocyte PD-L1 in dampening compartmentalized chronic inflammation" A team at the Cleveland Clinic is investigating whether activating an immune mechanism will turn off chronic inflammation in MS.

Cory Willis, Ph.D.
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $193,789
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

"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.

Peter Calabresi, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $840,246
Term: 6/1/2020-11/30/2024

"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.

Yanan Chen, M.D., Ph.D.
Loyola University - Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $412,500
Term: 1/1/2023-12/31/2025

"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

Haritha Desu, Ph.D.
University of Montreal Hospital
Montréal, Quebec, Canada
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $197,528
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"Investigating T cell/oligodendrocyte interactions in multiple sclerosis: neuroprotective role of ICAM-1 signaling" A team at the University of Montreal Hospital is working to understand how immune T cells injure the cells that build nerve-insulating myelin and how to protect them to promote myelin repair.

Gregory Duncan, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $584,647
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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.

Francesca Bagnato, M.D., Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $904,640
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2024

"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, Ph.D.
University of Genoa
Genoa, Italy
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $99,000
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.

Serhat Okar, M.D.
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $233,334
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"Evaluation of Diagnostic and Disease-Monitoring Performance of Portable Ultra-low Field (64 mT) Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis and Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy" NIH researchers are testing the ability of portable MRI scanners to lower costs and improve diagnosis and monitoring of people with MS.

Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $652,160
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

"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, Ph.D.
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $590,331
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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. *Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund*

Teri Schreiner, M.D., M.P.H.
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $329,996
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024

"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

Olaf Stuve, M.D., Ph.D.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $659,363
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Deciphering choroid plexus volume changes in multiple sclerosis" University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center scientists are studying a structure in the brain called the choroid plexus to determine if it is an indicator of MS disease stage and a site of entry into the brain for particular subsets of inflammatory cel

Lucinda Black, Ph.D.
Deakin University
Geelong, Victoria, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $480,129
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Elucidating the role of diet in multiple sclerosis to improve disease outcomes" Researchers at Deakin University in Australia is looking for evidence of a role for diet in slowing MS progression.

Jennifer Graves, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California San Diego
San Diego, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $630,871
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Biological Age in the Pediatric MS Population" A team at the University of California, San Diego is studying aging in children with and without MS for clues to stopping the effects of aging on the course of MS.

Elina Misicka, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $132,101
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2025

"Metabolomic biomarkers of risk, severity, and progression of multiple sclerosis. Don Bell Memorial Fellowship, Sponsored by Rabbits Unlimited, Ltd." Researchers at Case Western are looking for biomarkers associated with MS risk, severity and progression to promote better treatment and prevention. *Don Bell Memorial Fellowship, Sponsored by Rabbits Unlimited, Ltd.*

Amber Salter, Ph.D., M.P.H.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $222,760
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024
"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

Tyler Titcomb, Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $603,625
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028
"Registered Dietitians, Nutritional Risk, and Dietary Patterns in Multiple Sclerosis" A team at the University of Iowa are seeking evidence for the idea that including a registered dietitian nutritionist on MS care teams can improve the course of MS.

Helen Tremlett, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $144,500
Term: 10/1/2021-11/7/2024
"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.

Lindsey Rechtman, Dr.P.H.
McKing Consulting Corporation
Fairfax, Virginia
Award: Research Contracts
Category: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $225,733
Term: 3/6/2023-3/31/2024
"Landscape Analysis Contract" Gathering data on global investments in multiple sclerosis research by non-profit and government organizations

Daniel Hartung, Pharm.D., M.P.H.
Oregon State University
Corvalis, Oregon
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $36,000
Term: 2/1/2020-9/30/2024
"Updating Cost of MS Medication" Researchers at Oregon State University are investigating reasons for the escalating costs of MS treatments.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, D.Sc.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Human Genetics

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $75,000
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

"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.
Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Kathryn Fitzgerald, D.Sc.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Human Genetics

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $192,556
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Multiscale cell type mapping of gray and white matter pathology in multiple sclerosis (Award 2 of 2)" Collaborators in Germany and the U.S. are identifying differences in genes turned on or off among various cell types and regions in the brains of people with MS for insight into why some areas are more vulnerable to inflammation than others.

Lucas Schirmer, M.D.
University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Human Genetics

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $358,939
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Multiscale cell type mapping of gray and white matter pathology in multiple sclerosis (Award 1 of 2)" Collaborators in Germany and the U.S. are identifying differences in genes turned on or off among various cell types and regions in the brains of people with MS for insight into why some areas are more vulnerable to inflammation than others.

Douglas Arnold, M.D.
McGill University
Montréal, Quebec, Canada
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $3,947,220
Term: 1/1/2017-12/31/2023

"An MRI biomarker for disability progression for use in clinical trials" Identifying a biomarker of disability progression for use in clinical trials.
Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Theron Casper, Ph.D.
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $3,499,411
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025
"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.

John Ciotti, M.D.
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $65,000
Term: 4/1/2022-3/31/2024
"Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship" A promising doctor will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Karla Gray-Roncal, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $225,000
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026
"Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship for Dr. Karla Gray-Roncal" A promising doctor at Johns Hopkins University will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Kimystian Harrison, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $195,500
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024
"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.

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.C.R.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $534,669
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2024
"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.

Bardia Nourbakhsh, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $397,249
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2024

"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, M.D., Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $1,451,679
Term: 4/1/2019-6/30/2026

"Determining the Effectiveness of early Intensive Versus Escalation approaches for the treatment of Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (DELIVER-MS)" An international team is extending a clinical trial originally funded by PCORI to determine whether early, highly effective treatments are the better approach to preventing future disability in people with relapsing MS.

Christopher Orlando, M.D., M.P.H.
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $150,000
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2025

"Underserved Populations and Clinical Trials" A promising doctor at University of Southern California will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Samantha Roman, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.

Klaus Schmierer, F.R.C.P., M.D., Ph.D.
Queen Mary University of London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $100,000
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2025

"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, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $195,000
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024
"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, M.D., M.S.P.H.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $1,467,875
Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2024
"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.

Karlo Toljan, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $225,000
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026
"Training in clinical trials in multiple sclerosis" A promising doctor at the Cleveland Clinic will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Elizabeth Verter, M.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024
"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.

MS Society UK ,
MS Society UK
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $1,333,573
Term: 4/1/2017-6/30/2026
"HTA-CET-15/57/143-Dr Jeremy Chataway - MS-STAT2 - Phase 3 trial simvastatin"
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.

Ana Anderson, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $396,000
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"A TCF-1-Glucocorticoid regulatory axis underlies genetic susceptibility and steroid responsiveness in CNS autoimmunity" Brigham and Women's researchers are studying how immune molecules interact for clues to improving a standard treatment of MS relapses.

Amit Bar-Or, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $375,000
Term: 4/1/2021-3/31/2024

"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, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $630,502
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

"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

Claudia Cantoni, Ph.D.
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Barrow Neurological Institute
Phoenix, Arizona
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $273,341
Term: 9/1/2022-6/30/2024

"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.

Manuel Comabella, M.D., Ph.D.
Hospital Vall Hebron
Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $315,090
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2024

"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

Bonnie Dittel, Ph.D.
Versiti Blood Research Institute
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

"Development of a mouse model to study the impact of Epstein Barr Virus on multiple sclerosis" Scientists at the Versiti Blood Research Institute are developing a mouse model to study the impact of the Epstein-Barr virus on MS.

Josiah Gerdts, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $451,281
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

"An engineered immune synapse detection circuit for T cell antigen discovery in autoimmune neurologic disorders" Researchers at UCSF are developing a technology to better identify the triggers that cause immune cells to attack the nervous system in MS and other disorders.

Marjan Gharagozloo, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $550,000
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Jennifer Gommerman, Ph.D.
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $300,000
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Compartmentalized inflammation in MS – A Focus on Fibroblasts" A team at the University of Toronto and l'Université de Montréal is working to understand cell interactions in the meninges (a protective cover of the brain) and to determine if blocking these interactions will stop MS.
Co-funded with the MS Society of Canada

Oksana Goroshchuk, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $201,903
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.

Kevan Herold, M.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $356,224
Term: 2/1/2021-1/31/2024
"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, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $599,999
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025
"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, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $201,903
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025
"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.
The Kathleen C Moore Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship

Yoon-Chul Kye, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $193,789
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024
"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, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $215,095
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025
"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.

Roberta Magliozzi, Ph.D.
University of Verona
Verona, Italy
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $100,000
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024
"Meningeal lymphoid-like structures as secret EBV hideout in multiple sclerosis."
Researchers at the University of Verona in Italy are working to identify molecules that may play a role in the Epstein-Barr virus's connection to MS-specific inflammation.

Carson Moseley, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $222,114
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025
"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, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $925,866
Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2024
"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.

Novalia Pishesha, Ph.D.
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $610,812
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028
"Engineering the modularity of a single domain antibody fragment that target Class II MHC for inducing antigen-specific tolerance" Researchers at Boston Children's Hospital are modifying certain proteins that can affect the immune system as a strategy for turning off immune attacks in MS.

Farinaz Safavi, M.D., Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $289,351
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2024
"Role of Bruton Tyrosine kinase in neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration" 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.
ABF Awardee

Luke Schwerdtfeger, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $205,470
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"Role of novel microbes and their metabolites identified in progressive MS in driving CNS autoimmunity" Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital are examining compounds made by intestinal microbes to see if and how they may be involved in MS disease activity.

Syed Suhail, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $205,470
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"Role of TIM-3 on myeloid cells in regulating neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration" Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital/ Harvard Medical School are studying how an immune molecule called TIM-3 affects immune responses in the brain and spinal cord in progressive MS.

Tomokazu Sumida, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $624,378
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

"Pathogenic Programs Driving Regulatory T Cell Dysfunction in Multiple Sclerosis" Yale researchers are working to find what causes immune cells to enter and attack the nervous system in MS.

Liwei Wang, Ph.D.
New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $204,814
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

"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.

Chao Wang, Ph.D.
Sunnybrook Research Institute
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $274,113
Term: 3/1/2021-12/31/2023

"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.

Soumya Yandamuri, Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $193,789
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024
"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.

Dandan Yang, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $212,153
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026
"Glucocorticoid biosynthesis and sensing of Th17 cells in CNS autoimmunity" Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital are investigating why steroids work better for some people with MS than others and to make them more effective in quelling attacks on the nervous system.

Yevgeniy Yuzefpolskiy, Ph.D.
Benaroya Research Institute
Seattle, Washington
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $212,153
Term: 9/1/2023-8/31/2026
"Role of B cells in Modulating Metabolic Pathways of Pathogenic CD4 T cells in Murine Model of Multiple Sclerosis" Researchers at Benaroya are focusing on how disease-causing immune T cells form and are affected by B cells with the aim of deleting them or preventing them from forming in the first place.

American Brain Foundation ,
American Brain Foundation
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Award: Research Contracts
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $300,000
Term: 9/25/2023-6/30/2025
"American Brain Foundation Harnessing Neuroinflammation Initiative" A cross-disciplinary research initiative that brings together nonprofit organizations, pharmaceutical and biotech investors, philanthropists, and researchers to provide funding for research on the role of neuroinflammation in a wide range of brain disease

Marc Horwitz, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Infectious Agents
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $25,436
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024
"Fighting the Hidden Enemy: Therapeutic strategies targeting latent gammaherpesvirus infection in an autoimmune animal model of multiple sclerosis" A team at University of British Columbia is testing known EBV-targeting treatments in MS models to determine if they can reduce the severity or even prevent MS-like disease.
Co-funded with MS Canada

Laura Airas, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Turku
Helsinki, Finland
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $600,000
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Exploring microglia and astrocyte-driven pathology in MS using multimodal MRI and PET imaging" University of Turku (Finland) scientists are determining the best types of imaging for detecting and tracking chronic inflammation in the nervous system of people with MS.

Christina Azevedo, M.D., M.P.H.
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $747,267
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

"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

Erin Beck, M.D., Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $404,407
Term: 9/20/2021-6/30/2024

"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, Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $196,309
Term: 7/1/2020-1/31/2024

"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, Ph.D.
New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $324,991
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024

"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, F.R.C.P., Ph.D.
University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $448,550
Term: 10/1/2017-10/1/2025

"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, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $190,752
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

"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.

Robert Fox, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $1,224,590
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"SPRINT-MS Follow-up Study" A team at Cleveland Clinic and a network of other centers is following up with participants from a previous clinical trial to identify a brain MRI marker that better predicts whether a therapy works in progressive MS.

Susan Gauthier, D.O.
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $656,698
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Establishing the clinical relevance of chronic active MS lesions and quantification of their inflammatory trajectory for a new treatment target." A team at Weill Cornell Medical College is using a type of MRI to understand the role of inflammation in chronic, long-term lesions in the brain of people with MS.

Daniel Harrison, M.D.
University of Maryland, Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $586,820
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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.

Robert McBurney, Ph.D.
Accelerated Cure Project for MS
Waltham, Massachusetts
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $449,216
Term: 4/1/2021-3/31/2024

"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.

Shiv Saidha, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $606,133
Term: 10/1/2020-3/31/2025

"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.

Amber Salter, Ph.D., M.P.H.
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $164,558
Term: 10/1/2022-3/31/2024

"Understanding Post-COVID-19 Syndrome in Individuals with MS using the NARCOMS Registry" Researchers are investigating the impacts of long COVID and other infections in people with MS to improve care.

Elias Sotirchos, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $148,500
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

"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.

Elizabeth Sweeney, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $265,232
Term: 1/1/2022-6/30/2024

"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

Charidimos Tsagkas, M.D., Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $131,886
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.

Martina Absinta, M.D., PhD
Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele
Milano, Italy
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Neuropathology

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $534,858
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"MRI-single cell transcriptomic investigation of chronic active inflammation of the spinal cord in patients with multiple sclerosis" A team in Italy is investigating chronic inflammation in the spinal cord by analyzing genes from spinal cord cells, combined with MRI scan analysis, to find ways to target and stop inflammation in MS.

Wesley Brandão, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Neuropathology

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $141,176
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.

Alessandro Didonna, Ph.D.
East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Category: Neuropathology

Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $75,000
Term: 7/1/2021-11/30/2023

"Tau misfolding and progression in multiple sclerosis" Using a powerful, new tool to explore the possible role of a toxic protein in the progression of MS.
Estimated joint commitment with other Progressive MS Alliance members

Tanja Kuhlmann, M.D.
University Hospital Münster
Münster, Germany
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Neuropathology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $574,838
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Histological, transcriptomic and functional characterization of a new lesion type associated with fast disease progression" A team at the University Hospital Münster, Germany and the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience in Amsterdam is investigating a type of lesion that is commonly present in the brains of people with rapidly progressing MS and therapies that may treat thes

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $456,500
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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.
Funded in full by the Guston Fund

Bruce Trapp, Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Neuropathology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $660,000
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Comprehensive analysis of compartmentalized inflammation in multiple sclerosis brain" A team at the Cleveland Clinic is investigating how brain cells called microglia may have different activities depending on where they are located, which may be related to lesion expansion and disability progression in MS.

Yuyi You, M.D., Ph.D.
Macquarie University
North Ryde, New South Wales, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neuropathology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $543,272
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

"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.

Myla Goldman, M.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia
Award: Research Grants
Category: Neurophysiology
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $259,921
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Validation of 6MW Gait Speed Trajectory as a Clinical Outcome Measure of Demyelination" Researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University are testing whether a new walking test can better identify myelin damage in people with MS, which may help to improve the success rate of clinical trials of repair strategies.

Shailendra Giri, Ph.D.
Henry Ford Health System/Henry Ford Health Sciences Center
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Research Grants
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $596,699
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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

Lachlan Rash, Ph.D.
The University of Queensland
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Award: Research Grants
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $584,879
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Target validation of acid-sensing ion channel inhibitors to stop disease progression and manage pain in MS" Researchers at The University of Queensland in Australia are developing an inhibitory molecule that may help to protect the nervous system and prevent symptoms such as pain in people with MS.

Danwei Wu, M.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $301,086
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"Targeting CNS myeloid population through bone marrow transplantation in EAE mouse model" Stanford researchers are investigating aspects of bone marrow transplant in mice to enhance its ability to protect the nervous system and slow progression.
ABF Recipient, supported by the Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation and J. David Power, III

Philip De Jager, M.D., Ph.D.
Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $5,936,259
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027
"National Multiple Sclerosis Tissue Repository Network (Award 1 of 3)" Researchers are building a state-of-the-art tissue bank of specimens from people with MS to support research on Pathways to Cures.

David Pitt, M.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $699,699
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027
"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, M.D., Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Research Pathway: Stopping MS
Estimated Funding: $337,487
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027
"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.

Katrina Adams, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $463,558
Term: 1/1/2023-6/30/2026
"Elucidating molecular mechanisms of neural stem cell-derived gliogenesis in remyelination" Researchers at Notre Dame are exploring how myelin-making cells derived from stem cells might be used to repair myelin in MS models.
Funded in part by the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund

Manzoor Bhat, Ph.D.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $545,884
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2024

"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.

Stephen Fancy, D.V.M., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $776,123
Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2024

"Oligodendroglial-vascular interactions control successful remyelination in Multiple Sclerosis" Researchers from the University of California at San Francisco are exploring interactions between blood vessels and myelin-making cells for clues to promoting myelin repair in MS.
Funded in part by the Dave Tomlinson Research Fund

Hyun Kyoung Lee, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $821,063
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

"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.
Funded in part by the Donald C. McGraw Foundation

Jennifer Orthmann Murphy, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $653,875
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"The role of microglia in cortical remyelination" A team at the University of Pennsylvania is investigating features of brain cells called "microglia" that could be manipulated to enhance myelin repair.
Funded in full by the Kaufer Family

Jennifer Orthmann Murphy, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $625,528
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"Defining cortical reactive astrocyte heterogeneity and contribution to remyelination" A team at the University of Pennsylvania is investigating features of brain cells called "astrocytes" that could be manipulated to enhance myelin repair.

Vaibhav Patil, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $205,470
Term: 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

"Role of m6A mRNA methylation in CNS remyelination and inflammation" Northwestern University scientists are working to expand the possibilities for repairing myelin, the protective nerve coating that is damaged in MS.

Benjamin Clayton, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $553,557
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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.
Paid by the Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation and J. David Power, III

Richard Dortch, Ph.D.
St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Barrow Neurological Institute
Phoenix, Arizona
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $600,000
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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.

Lindsay Festa, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $610,065
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

"Regulation of the oligodendrocyte actin cytoskeleton by the lysosomal cation channel TRPML1" Researchers at UPenn are working on strategies that enhance repair and restoration of myelin, the nerve coating that is damaged in MS.

Jeffrey Huang, Ph.D.
Georgetown University
Washington, District of Columbia
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $758,839
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

"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

Qing Lu, Ph.D.
Children's Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $599,999
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $599,999
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $150,445
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024

"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.

Lindsay Osso, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $68,588
Term: 8/1/2025-8/1/2026

"Determining the mechanisms underlying remyelination by surviving oligodendrocytes"
University of Colorado researchers are investigating how myelin-building cells that survive attacks can contribute to the repair of myelin, the protective nerve coating that is damaged in MS.

Larry Sherman, Ph.D.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $599,999
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Role of Hyaluronan in MS Cognitive Dysfunction" Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University are exploring whether a molecule called hyaluronan contributes to problems with cognition in MS, and whether blocking its activity can improve memory in lab models.

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: CNS Repair
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $589,500
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Functional recovery of Visual Pathway by modulating inflammation, inducing remyelination, and mitigating axon damage." Researchers at University of California, Riverside are exploring how one molecule may contribute to nerve damage in MS for clues to restoring function.
Funded in part by the Kaufer Family

Kathryn Fitzgerald, D.Sc.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $412,500
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

"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

Edward Gettings, D.O.
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $202,811
Term: 3/1/2021-6/30/2024

"What are the barriers preventing access to rehabilitation services, particularly maintenance services among people with MS and what are some of the potential solutions to these barriers?" Researchers at Temple University in Philadelphia are examining how to improve access to rehabilitation services for people with MS.

Riley Bove, M.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $708,972
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025
"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, M.D.
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia
Award: Research Grants
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $329,238
Term: 10/1/2019-12/31/2023
"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.

Nara Michaelson, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $75,000
Term: 7/1/2025-6/30/2026
"Improving Physical and Cognitive Abilities in Multiple Sclerosis: A Clinical Trials Training Plan" A promising doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

Bardia Nourbakhsh, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $763,720
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027
"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.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Anastasia Vishnevetsky, M.D., M.P.H.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $130,000
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024
"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.

Barbara Willekens, M.D., Ph.D.
Antwerp University Hospital
Antwerp, Belgium
Award: Research Grants
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $546,156
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"MACSIMISE-BRAIN: Metformin Add-on Clinical Study in Multiple Sclerosis to Evaluate Brain Remyelination And Neurodegeneration" A team at Antwerp University Hospital in Belgium testing the ability of metformin – a therapy approved for diabetes – to stop progression and restore function in people with progressive MS.

Kouichi Ito, Ph.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $600,334
Term: 10/1/2019-6/30/2024

"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, D.Sc., P.T.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $591,128
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

"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

Korhan Buyukturkoglu, Ph.D.
Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $730,849
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

"Thalamus Derived Radiomic Features to Explore Cognitive Impairment in People With Multiple Sclerosis and At-Risk Individuals" Researchers at Columbia are using advanced technology to find a way to leverage clinical MRIs in screening for cognitive problems in MS.

Karen Ho, Ph.D.
Clene Nanomedicine
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Fast Forward
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $339,232
Term: 9/30/2019-12/31/2023

"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.

Robert McBurney, Ph.D.
Accelerated Cure Project for MS
Waltham, Massachusetts
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $2,186,187
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2024
"Pathways to Cures Project Collaboration" Collaborating with iConquerMS patient powered platform to gain input on research priorities and impacts.

Thanh Nguyen, Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $884,012
Term: 10/1/2016-12/31/2023
"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.

Ceren Tozlu, Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Neuropathology
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $607,777
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028
"Multi-modal neuroimaging and cognitive assessment of females with multiple sclerosis across different stages of menopause" Researchers at Weill Cornell are exploring how menopause affects thinking and memory in women with MS.

Gustavo Della Flora Nunes, Ph.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Neurophysiology
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $194,116
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025
"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.

Sumire Sato, Ph.D., P.T.
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Neurophysiology
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $200,689
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026
"Identifying brain biomarkers in MS walking function to enhance rehabilitation outcomes: examining brain white matter after accounting for "free-water" fluid" Researchers at the University of Florida are focusing on using MRI imaging to understand how mobility declines with age and in people with MS.

Bo Fernhall, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts Boston
Dorchester, Massachusetts
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Category: Physiology
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $719,399
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026

"Targeting vascular mechanisms of functional outcomes via home-based exercise training among persons with multiple sclerosis who have hypertension" UMass Boston researchers are testing a home-based exercise program to see if it can improve blood pressure, cognition and mobility in people with MS who have high blood pressure.

Douglas Feinstein, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $599,524
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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

Yuta Fujimoto, M.B.A.
J-Pharma Co., Ltd.
Yokohama, Japan
Award: Fast Forward
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $600,000
Term: 8/18/2023-8/17/2024

"IND enabling studies on a novel amino acid transport inhibitor to promote CNS repair in MS" This commercial funding opportunity supports studies that are necessary before a novel molecule that might promote nervous system repair can be tested in people with progressive MS.

Karen Ho, Ph.D.
Clene Nanomedicine
Salt Lake City, Utah
Award: Fast Forward
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $661,402
Term: 4/28/2023-4/28/2024

"A Phase 2, Open Label, Sequential Group, Investigator Blinded Study Using Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy to Assess the Effects of CNM-Au8 for Bioenergetic Improvement of Impaired Neuronal Redox State in Non-Active Progressive Multiple Sclerosis" A team is studying whether an experimental therapy called Biocatalytic Nanocrystalline Gold can provide energy to brain cells and promote myelin repair and nerve protection.

Larissa Jank, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $205,470
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"Indole-3-lactate – a novel metabolic modulator of oligodendroglial function and a potential remyelinating agent for multiple sclerosis" Johns Hopkins researchers are exploring the effect of a molecule produced in the gut on the brain and whether taking related dietary supplements may help restore nerve-insulating myelin.
Paid by the Kenrose Kitchen Table Foundation and J. David Power, III

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California
Award: Fast Forward
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $373,446
Term: 7/15/2020-12/31/2023

"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.

Stefan Gold, Ph.D.
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Berlin, Germany
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $414,685
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2024

"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, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Research Grants
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $611,701
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2024

"Hypnosis and Mindfulness Meditation for Fatigue Management in MS" A University of Washington team is evaluating the effects of two highly accessible ways for individauls 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, Ph.D.
Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $16,809
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

"A Nationwide Survey of Psychosocial Wellness in MS" University of Michigan researchers are leading an effort to survey people with MS with the purpose of gathering data to enhance psychosocial wellness.

Anna Kratz, Ph.D.
Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $421,202
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

"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.

Ivan Molton, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Research Grants
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $1,189,303
Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2024

"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.

Jared Bruce, Ph.D.
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Kansas, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $756,059
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2024

"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

Michelle Cameron, M.D., P.T.
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $624,956
Term: 10/1/2019-7/31/2024

"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, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $548,359
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2024

"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*

John DeLuca, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $468,019
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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

Dawn Ehde, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $725,451
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026

"Increasing Physical Activity via Provider Prescription and Engagement: Efficacy of Exercise Rx for Adults with Multiple Sclerosis" A team at the University of Washington is testing a novel electronic platform that bridges the communication gap between providers and people with MS to increase physical activity and restore function in people with MS.

Roger Enoka, Ph.D.
University of Colorado - Boulder
Boulder, Colorado
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $589,208
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"Reducing fatigue in people with MS by treatment with transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation" A team at the University of Colorado is testing whether electrical nerve stimulation can reduce fatigue in a clinical trial involving people with MS.

Brett Fling, Ph.D.
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $497,901
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

"From bench to bedside - mobility control and neurorehabilitation in people with multiple sclerosis" Experienced mentors/researchers at Colorado State University are training promising professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.

Brett Fling, Ph.D.
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $752,710
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

"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, Ph.D., P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S.
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Research Grants
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $599,679
Term: 7/1/2022-4/30/2025

"TRAIN-BW: Feasibilty, 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, Ph.D., P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S.
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $467,505
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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, Ph.D.
Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital
Hartford, Connecticut
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $700,736
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

"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.

Abbey Hughes, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $447,216
Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

"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

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.
Columbia University
New York, New York
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $489,489
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

"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

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $395,037
Term: 11/1/2021-3/31/2026
"Training in Physical Activity Promotion for Multiple Sclerosis" Rehabilitation researchers have received funding to train promising rehabilitation professionals to conduct MS rehabilitation research.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Robert Motl, Ph.D.
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Collaborative Research Center Awards
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $518,566
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025
"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.
Funded with support from the Illinois Lottery

Matthew Plow, Ph.D.
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $451,374
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026
"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.

Prudence Plummer, Ph.D., P.T.
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $725,913
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026
"Dalfampridine combined with physical therapy for mobility impairment in people with multiple sclerosis" Mass General researchers are testing whether walking can be improved by combining rehabilitation with a pharmacological treatment for walking.

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.
University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, Kansas
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $353,585
Term: 2/15/2021-6/30/2024
"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.

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $401,426
Term: 7/1/2018-6/30/2024
"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.

Carly Wender, Ph.D.
Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $725,499
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026
"A Novel Combinatory Approach to Maximize Functional Recovery of Learning and Memory in Multiple Sclerosis" Kessler Foundation researchers are testing a combined approach to improving cognitive function in people with MS, involving cognitive rehabilitation and exercise.

E. Yeh, M.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $352,950
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2024
"Pediatric MS: Shaping the future of outcomes and disability" This training program at the University of Toronto Hospital for Sick Children equips researchers with experience and knowledge to design and conduct research aimed at improving wellness in children with MS.

E. Yeh, M.D.
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Category: Rehabilitation
Research Pathway: Restoring Function
Estimated Funding: $134,789
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026
"An Exercise Training Intervention for Depressive Symptoms in Youth with MS: A Randomized Controlled Feasibility Trial" University of Toronto researchers are testing an exercise program that uses coaching to increase physical activity and possibly reduce depression and fatigue in children with MS.
Co-funded with MS Canada

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, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Biology of Glia
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $395,200
Term: 1/1/2022-3/31/2024

"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, M.D., Ph.D.
Saint Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $298,546
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024

"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.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Kjetil Bjornevik, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $168,563
Term: 11/1/2022-10/31/2024

"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.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Naila Makhani, M.D., M.P.H.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $604,695
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2027

"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.
Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Dalia Rotstein, M.D.
St. Michael's Hospital-Unity Health Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Category: Epidemiology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $151,000
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

"When does MS begin after infectious mononucleosis?" A team in Toronto is using a novel dataset to map out the earliest steps of MS in people who had mononucleosis, for clues to developing strategies that can end MS by prevention.

Matthew Lincoln, M.D., Ph.D.
Unity Health Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Category: Human Genetics
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $375,000
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

"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.

Alexander Boyden, Ph.D.
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

"Impact of gamma herpesvirus infection on required B cell:CD4 T cell interactions in a novel B cell-dependent, antibody-independent EAE model" Researchers at the University of Iowa are working to discover how a virus infection affects certain immune cell interactions in a mouse model of MS.

Natalia Drosu, Ph.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $197,528
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

"CD4+ T cell responses to immunodominant HLA-DRB1*15:01-restricted Epstein-Barr virus antigens in patients with multiple sclerosis with potential cross-reactivity to myelin"
Researchers at Mass General Hospital are examining how environmental and genetic sensitivity to the Epstein-Barr virus may work together to trigger MS.

Brian Edelson, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $595,050
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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.

Lisa Ann Gerdes, M.D.
University Hospital LMU Munich Germany
Munich, Germany
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Category: Immunology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $297,000
Term: 10/1/2021-12/31/2024

"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

Judith Greer, Ph.D.
The University of Queensland
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Immunology

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $100,000
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

"Using a novel humanized mouse model to investigate how EBV infection at different ages potentiates development of CNS demyelinating disease" Researchers at the University of Queensland in Australia are trying to find the link between the age a person is infected with Epstein-Barr virus and the likelihood of developing MS.

Marc Horwitz, Ph.D.
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Immunology

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $25,594
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

"Novel preclinical humanized mouse models of MS to investigate the in's and out's of EBV's role in disease initiation" University of British Columbia researchers are developing MS models for studying how EBV may trigger MS and how to prevent it.
Co-funded with MS Canada

Allan Kermode, M.D.
University of Western Australia
Crawley, Western Australia, Australia
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Category: Immunology

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $577,992
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

"White matter lesion single nuclei transcriptomics and epitope discovery to identify immune targets in multiple sclerosis" University of Western Australia researchers are determining if components of the brain that are mistakenly targeted by the immune system in MS are similar to components of the Epstein-Barr virus.

Joseph Sabatino, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Immunology

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

"Identification of viral-specific lymphocytes associated with novel autoantibody signature in multiple sclerosis" A team at UCSF is exploring a possible mechanism by which EBV may trigger the immune response that damages the nervous system in people with MS.

Joseph Sabatino, M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Immunology

Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $584,536
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

"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.

Theodore Jardetzky, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Infectious Agents
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $78,753
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024
"Isolation of antibodies to prefusion EBV gB using humanized mice" Stanford University researchers are attempting to find antibodies that can block virus infection.

Theodore Jardetzky, Ph.D.
Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Research Grants
Category: Infectious Agents
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $571,058
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026
"Targeting EBV entry glycoproteins for vaccine and therapeutic development" Stanford scientists are exploring novel technology with an eye toward developing a vaccine that may prevent the Epstein-Barr virus from triggering MS.

Erin Longbrake, M.D., Ph.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Category: Infectious Agents
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $110,000
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024
"Epstein-Barr Virus in Patients with New Onset Multiple Sclerosis" Yale University scientists are exploring tissue obtained from people newly diagnosed with MS to determine what role EBV plays in activating the immune response in MS.

Timothy Vartanian, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Category: Infectious Agents
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $616,672
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026
"Harboring the Initial Trigger of Multiple Sclerosis" A team at Weill Cornell Medical College are determining whether bacteria that have been associated with MS are related to changes in disease activity, for clues to developing a therapy that targets these bacteria and possibly prevent MS activity.

Michelle Pleet, Ph.D.
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Category: Neuropathology
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $136,786
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024
"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, M.D.
University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $1,407,349
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027

"Rocky Mountain MS Center Tissue Bank" Maintaining a tissue bank of specimens from people with MS for use in research.

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Research Pathway: Ending MS
Estimated Funding: $1,552,809
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2026

"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