

## NEW PILOT RESEARCH PROJECTS BEGINNING SUMMER 2019

- “OnVDMP CEST MRI Detection of Primary CNS Metabolites as a Novel Imaging Biomarker for EAE Disease Progression”  
Johns Hopkins researchers are testing a novel method of imaging molecules in the spinal cord that may link to disease course in MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020  
**Grant Amount:** \$55,000  
**Project Leader: Jeff Bulte, PhD**  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- “The therapeutic effect of D-mannose in EAE”  
Scientists at Thomas Jefferson University are testing whether D-mannose, a simple sugar, may stop the immune attack in lab models of MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020  
**Grant Amount:** \$55,000  
**Project Leader: Bogoljub Ciric, PhD**  
Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA
- “Optical recording of neuronal activity during demyelination and remyelination processes with cellular resolution”  
A Cleveland Clinic team is developing a novel method for determining the effects of MS and potential treatments on nerve cells.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020  
**Grant Amount:** \$55,000  
**Project Leader: Hod Dana, PhD**  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH
- “Interacting with Nature using virtual reality: A pilot intervention to restore cognitive fatigue in patients with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)”  
A team in Beirut is testing whether interacting with nature via virtual reality can decrease cognitive fatigue in people with MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020  
**Grant Amount:** \$49,900  
**Project Leader: Hala Darwish, PhD**  
American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
- “Glutamate Toxicity as a Component of Progressive Thalamic Damage in Multiple Sclerosis.”  
Researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are developing imaging technology that may identify an early contributor to nerve cell damage in MS, for clues to developing therapies that protect the nervous system.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020 **PENDING**  
**Grant Amount:** \$54,532  
**Project Leader: Ritobrato Datta, PhD**  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

- “Development of a Risk Factor Model for Self-Management Skills among Persons with MS”  
Mount Sinai researchers are looking at factors that may impede self management to improve quality of life for people with MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020  
**Grant Amount:** \$54,469  
**Project Leader:** **Elizabeth Gromisch, PhD**  
Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, Hartford, CT
- “In vivo imaging of fibrin deposition in multiple sclerosis by 64Cu-FBP8 MR-PET”  
A team at Massachusetts General Hospital is testing the ability of advanced technology to determine the role of a blood protein in causing damage to nerve tissue and inflammation in people with MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020 **PENDING**  
**Grant Amount:** \$55,000  
**Project Leader:** **Caterina Mainero, MD, PhD**  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
- “Open-Label Placebos to Treat Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis”  
Researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham are testing the ability of the placebo effect to reduce MS-related fatigue.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020 **PENDING**  
**Grant Amount:** \$54,953  
**Project Leader:** **Tapan Mehta, PhD**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
- “Identifying macrophage/microglia and astroglial phenotypes and their interactions in MS lesions.”  
Yale scientists are using cutting-edge imaging techniques to study the role of different cells in the immune attack on brain tissues in people with MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020  
**Grant Amount:** \$55,000  
**Project Leader:** **David Pitt, MD**  
Yale University, New Haven, CT
- “EBV-specific CD8+T cell response in multiple sclerosis”  
A team at the University of Massachusetts is studying the immune cell responses to the Epstein-Barr virus in people with MS to determine whether these responses contribute to the development of MS.  
**Term:** 6/1/2019 - 5/31/2020 **PENDING**  
**Grant Amount:** \$55,000  
**Project Leader:** **Liisa Selin, MD, PhD**  
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA