

**NEW PILOT RESEARCH PROJECTS SLATED TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2018**

The National MS Society committed to fund the following ten pilot research projects. Pilot research projects are one-year, “high-risk” awards to quickly test novel ideas.

- “The role of intestinal antimicrobial peptides in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis”  
Testing a therapeutic approach using molecules that regulate gut bacteria to reduce severity of MS-like disease.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$42,350  
**Project Leader: Pawan Kumar, PhD**  
State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY
- “MS disability scales in the aging population”  
Studying older people with MS and without MS and comparing the measurement of disability.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$43,672  
**Project Leader: Sharon Lynch, PhD**  
University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS
- “CNS vulnerability in a Progressive MS Model”  
To study whether differences in the cells of the central nervous system might contribute to the risk of developing progressive MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$44,000  
**Project Leader: Miguel Paz Soldan, MD, PhD**  
Western Institute for Biomedical Research (WIBR), Salt Lake City, UT
- “Role of astrocytes in neural-vascular coupling and its dysfunction in multiple sclerosis”  
Using neuroimaging methods to determine the mechanism of cognitive dysfunction in MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$44,000  
**Project Leader: Bart Rypma, PhD**  
The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, TX
- “Molecular and behavioral analysis of the NR1H3 (LXRA) model of progressive multiple sclerosis”  
Developing and testing a new model of MS-like disease.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$40,000  
**Project Leader: Carles Vilarino-Guell, PhD**

(continued)

- “Activation of the inhibitory receptor PD-1 signaling pathway for MS therapy”  
Targeting a novel pathway for stopping the immune attack in MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$44,000  
**Project Leader:** Yuhong Yang, MD  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- “Interhemispheric communication in MS: implications for balance and mobility”  
Testing how changes in communication between the two sides of the brain contribute to lower limb asymmetries and the resultant declines in mobility for people with MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$44,000  
**Project Leader:** Brett Fling, PhD  
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- “A randomized control trial of e-Support as a social network intervention in MS”  
Using an online format to deliver the benefits of support groups to people with MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$43,864  
**Project Leader:** Victoria Leavitt, PhD  
Columbia University, New York, NY
- “Randomized control trial of ketamine for treatment of multiple sclerosis-related fatigue”  
Performing a clinical trial to find out if ketamine can alleviate the severity of fatigue in people with MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$43,914  
**Project Leader:** Bardia Nourbakhsh, MD  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- “Can transcranial direct stimulation improve walking in multiple sclerosis”  
Examining the effectiveness of electrical stimulation to improve walking in people with MS.  
**Term:** 3/1/2018 - 2/28/2019  
**Grant Amount:** \$44,000  
**Project Leader:** Thorsten Rudroff, PhD  
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO