



List of Current Research Projects Funded by the National MS Society

Sorted by State/Country

November 2023

**Research Department
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New York, NY**

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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
- **Immunology** - Exploring the role of the immune system in the development and progression of MS to find ways to stop the immune attack on nervous tissues
- **Infectious Triggers** - Examining the possibility that viruses or bacteria could act as disease triggers in MS
- **Measuring MS Disease Activity** - Using sophisticated tools to track MS activity over time
- **Neuropathology** - Exploring how nerve fibers and cells are damaged during the course of MS
- **Neuropharmacology** - Studying how potential therapies impact the nervous system
- **Neurophysiology** - Exploring how nerve fibers and cells work normally and in the disease state
- **Physiology** - Understanding how MS may impact functions of the body
- **Preclinical Drug Development** - Laboratory research to collect data needed before an experimental therapy can be tested in people
- **Psychosocial Aspects of MS** - Understanding how MS effects cognitive functioning and other aspects of quality of life and wellness
- **Rehabilitation** - Seeking ways to maximize physical and mental abilities and reduce symptoms and increase wellbeing
- **Tissue/DNA Banks** - Shared resource of tissues and DNA banks that accumulate and store specimens for use by MS investigators

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WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

Claudia Cantoni, Ph.D.

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Barrow
Neurological Institute
Phoenix, Arizona

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$273,341

Richard Dortch, Ph.D.

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Barrow
Neurological Institute
Phoenix, Arizona

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$600,000

CALIFORNIA

Christina Azevedo, M.D., M.P.H.

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

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

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$747,267

Christopher Orlando, M.D., M.P.H.

University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$150,000

Pascal Sati, Ph.D.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, California

Award: Research Grants

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

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Approx. Funding: \$590,331

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.

University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California

Award: Research Grants

Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Neuropathology

Approx. Funding: \$456,500

“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

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.

University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$589,500

“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

Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Ph.D.

University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California

Award: Fast Forward

Term: 7/15/2020-12/31/2023

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Approx. Funding: \$373,446

“Remyelination and Immunomodulation with analogues of Chloroindazole” Research performed at the University of California, Riverside is focused on the role of Estrogen Receptor beta (ER β) selective compounds on promoting remyelination in MS.

Jennifer Graves, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California San Diego
San Diego, California

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Epidemiology

Approx. Funding: \$630,871

“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.

Valerie Block, D.Sc., P.T.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$591,128

“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

Riley Bove, M.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$708,972

“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

Stephen Fancy, D.V.M., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

Term: 7/1/2017-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$776,123

“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

Josiah Gerds, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$451,281

“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.

Qin Ma, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$215,095

“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.

Carson Moseley, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$222,114

“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.

Alyssa Nylander, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Clinician Scientist Development Awards
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: CNS Repair
Approx. Funding: \$150,445

“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.

Jorge Oksenberg, Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Approx. Funding: \$1,552,809

“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

Joseph Sabatino, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$110,000

“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
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$584,536

“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.

Erin Gibson, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$586,601

“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.

Theodore Jardetzky, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023

Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Infectious Agents

Approx. Funding: \$78,753

“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

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Infectious Agents

Approx. Funding: \$571,058

“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.

Danwei Wu, M.D.

Stanford University
Stanford, California

Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Approx. Funding: \$301,086

“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

COLORADO**Roger Enoka, Ph.D.**

University of Colorado - Boulder
Boulder, Colorado

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$589,208

“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.

John Corboy, M.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks

Approx. Funding: \$1,407,349

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

Gustavo Della Flora Nunes, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Neurophysiology
Approx. Funding: \$194,116

“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.

Wendy Macklin, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Research Grants
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: CNS Repair
Approx. Funding: \$599,999

“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.

Lindsay Osso, Ph.D.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 8/1/2025-8/1/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: CNS Repair
Approx. Funding: \$68,588

“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.

Teri Schreiner, M.D., M.P.H.

University of Colorado Denver
Denver, Colorado
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Approx. Funding: \$329,996

“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

Brett Fling, Ph.D.

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$497,901

“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

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$752,710

“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.

CONNECTICUT**Elizabeth Gromisch, Ph.D.**

Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital
Hartford, Connecticut

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$700,736

“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.

Oksana Goroshchuk, M.D., Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$201,903

“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

Term: 2/1/2021-1/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$356,224

“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.

Erin Longbrake, M.D., Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023

Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Infectious Agents

Approx. Funding: \$110,000

“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.

Naila Makhani, M.D., M.P.H.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Epidemiology
Approx. Funding: \$604,695

“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

David Pitt, M.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Tissue/DNA Banks
Approx. Funding: \$699,699

“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.

David Pitt, M.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$634,841

“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

Tomokazu Sumida, M.D., Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$624,378

“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.

Soumya Yandamuri, Ph.D.

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$193,789

“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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jeffrey Huang, Ph.D.

Georgetown University
Washington, District of Columbia
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: CNS Repair
Approx. Funding: \$758,839

“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

FLORIDA

Sumire Sato, Ph.D., P.T.

University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Neurophysiology
Approx. Funding: \$200,689

“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.

John Ciotti, M.D.

University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 4/1/2022-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$65,000

“Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship” A promising doctor will develop the skills involved in the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical trials in MS.

ILLINOIS

Chung-Yi Chiu, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2018-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$548,359

“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

Yanan Chen, M.D., Ph.D.

Loyola University - Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 1/1/2023-12/31/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: CNS Repair
Approx. Funding: \$412,500

“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

Douglas Feinstein, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Research Grants
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Approx. Funding: \$599,524

“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

Robert Motl, Ph.D.

University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 11/1/2021-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$395,037

“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
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$518,566

“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

Vaibhav Patil, Ph.D.

Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$205,470

“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.

INDIANA**Katrina Adams, Ph.D.**

University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 1/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$463,558

“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

IOWA

Alexander Boyden, Ph.D.

The University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023

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.

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$110,000

Tyler Titcomb, Ph.D.

The University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Epidemiology

Approx. Funding: \$603,625

KANSAS

Jacob Sosnoff, Ph.D.

University of Kansas Medical Center

Kansas City, Kansas

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$353,585

MARYLAND

Pavan Bhargava, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

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

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$630,502

Peter Calabresi, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$840,246

Blake Dewey, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$190,752

“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.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, D.Sc.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: International Progressive MS Alliance
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Genetics
Approx. Funding: \$75,000

“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
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Genetics
Approx. Funding: \$192,556

“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.

Kathryn Fitzgerald, D.Sc.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Epidemiology
Approx. Funding: \$412,500

“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

Sachin Gadani, M.D., Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$297,114

“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

Marjan Gharagozloo, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$550,000

“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

Alexander Gill, M.D., Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$293,307

“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

Karla Gray-Roncal, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$225,000

“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
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$195,500

“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.

Daniel Harrison, M.D.

University of Maryland, Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland
Award: Research Grants
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$586,820

“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.

Abbey Hughes, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$447,216

“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

Larissa Jank, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Approx. Funding: \$205,470

“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

Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.C.R.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$534,669

“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

Term: 4/1/2019-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$397,249

“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.

Bardia Nourbakhsh, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$763,720

“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

Samantha Roman, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$195,000

Shiv Saidha, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$606,133

Alexandra Simpson, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

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

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$195,000

Elias Sotirchos, M.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$148,500

Jing-Ping Lin, Ph.D.

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$606,065

Serhat Okar, M.D.

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Approx. Funding: \$233,334

“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.

Michelle Pleet, Ph.D.

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Neuropathology

Approx. Funding: \$136,786

“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.

Daniel Reich, M.D., Ph.D.

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Bethesda, Maryland

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks

Approx. Funding: \$337,487

“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.

Farinaz Safavi, M.D., Ph.D.

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: NMSS-ABF MS Clinician Scientist Award

Term: 7/1/2020-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$289,351

“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

Charidimos Tsagkas, M.D., Ph.D.

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$131,886

“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.

MASSACHUSETTS

Ana Anderson, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$396,000

“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.

Kjetil Bjornevik, M.D., Ph.D.

Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021

Term: 11/1/2022-10/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Epidemiology

Approx. Funding: \$168,563

“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

Wesley Brandão, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Neuropathology

Approx. Funding: \$141,176

“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.

Mary Catanese, Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2020-1/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$196,309

“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

Natalia Drosu, Ph.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$197,528

“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.

Dan Hu, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Research Grants
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$599,999

“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
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$201,903

“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
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$193,789

“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.

Nara Michaelson, M.D.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$75,000

“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.

Novalia Pishesha, Ph.D.

Boston Children's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$610,812

“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.

Prudence Plummer, Ph.D., P.T.

MGH Institute of Health Professions
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023

Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$725,913

“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.

Francisco Quintana, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: International Progressive MS Alliance -
Collaborative Network Center

Term: 1/1/2017-12/31/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$7,551,836

“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*

Luke Schwerdtfeger, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$205,470

“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

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$205,470

“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.

Anastasia Vishnevetsky, M.D., M.P.H.

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“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.

Dandan Yang, Ph.D.

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$212,153

“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.

Bo Fernhall, Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts Boston
Dorchester, Massachusetts
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Physiology
Approx. Funding: \$719,399

“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.

Robert McBurney, Ph.D.

Accelerated Cure Project for MS
Waltham, Massachusetts
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2018-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$2,186,187

“Pathways to Cures Project Collaboration” Collaborating with iConquerMS patient powered platform to gain input on research priorities and impacts.

Robert McBurney, Ph.D.

Accelerated Cure Project for MS
Waltham, Massachusetts
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 4/1/2021-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$449,216

“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.

MICHIGAN**Anna Kratz, Ph.D.**

Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Approx. Funding: \$16,809

“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
Term: 7/1/2019-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Approx. Funding: \$421,202

“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.

Sebastian Werneburg, Ph.D.

Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 9/1/2023-8/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$432,082

“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

Nora Fritz, Ph.D., P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S.

Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Research Grants
Term: 7/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$599,679

“TRAIN-BW: Feasibility, Acceptability and Impact of Backward Walking Training in Persons with MS” Researchers at Wayne State are testing the feasibility of backward walking training to prevent falls and improve mobility in people with MS.

Nora Fritz, Ph.D., P.T., D.P.T., N.C.S.

Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$467,505

“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

Shailendra Giri, Ph.D.

Henry Ford Health System/Henry Ford Health Sciences Center
Detroit, Michigan
Award: Research Grants
Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Preclinical Drug Development
Approx. Funding: \$596,699

“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

MINNESOTA

American Brain Foundation ,

American Brain Foundation

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Award: Research Contracts

Term: 9/25/2023-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$300,000

“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

MISSOURI

Jared Bruce, Ph.D.

University of Missouri - Kansas City

Kansas, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$756,059

“Development of a telehealth obesity intervention for patients with MS” A University of Missouri team is testing the effectiveness of an MS-specific weight loss/healthy living program delivered by phone, since obesity can profoundly worsen MS severity.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Brian Edelson, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M

St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$595,050

“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.

Daniel Hawiger, M.D., Ph.D.

Saint Louis University

St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021

Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Approx. Funding: \$298,546

“Detecting autoimmune potential of CD4+ T cells in the early MS disease process” Saint Louis University investigators are searching for novel immune cell fingerprints that would indicate pre-symptomatic MS to speed diagnosis earlier in the disease.

Paid by the Marilyn Hilton MS Research Fund

Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M

St. Louis, Missouri

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2017-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$925,866

“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.

Laura Piccio, M.D., Ph.D.

Washington University School of Medicine-M
St. Louis, Missouri
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Approx. Funding: \$652,160

“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.

NEW JERSEY**Kouichi Ito, Ph.D.**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, New Jersey
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$600,334

“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.

John DeLuca, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$468,019

“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

Carly Wender, Ph.D.

Kessler Foundation Research Center
West Orange, New Jersey
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$725,499

“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.

NEW YORK**Erin Beck, M.D., Ph.D.**

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 9/20/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$404,407

“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.

Korhan Buyukturkoglu, Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York

Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$730,849

“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.

Leigh Charvet, Ph.D.

New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York

Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021

Term: 10/1/2021-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$324,991

“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.

Philip De Jager, M.D., Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Tissue/DNA Banks

Approx. Funding: \$5,936,259

“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.

Susan Gauthier, D.O.

Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$656,698

“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.

Victoria Leavitt, Ph.D.

Columbia University
New York, New York

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$489,489

“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

Shane Liddelow, Ph.D.

New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Harry Weaver Scholar Awards
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$404,917

“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.

Thanh Nguyen, Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2016-12/31/2023

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$884,012

“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
Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Neuropathology
Approx. Funding: \$607,777

“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.

Timothy Vartanian, M.D., Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College
New York, New York
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Infectious Agents
Approx. Funding: \$616,672

“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.

Elizabeth Verter, M.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York
Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$130,000

“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.

Liwei Wang, Ph.D.

New York University Langone Medical Center
New York, New York
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$204,814

“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.

NORTH CAROLINA

Alessandro Didonna, Ph.D.

East Carolina University

Greenville, North Carolina

Award: International Progressive MS Alliance

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

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Neuropathology

Approx. Funding: \$75,000

OHIO

Qing Lu, Ph.D.

Children's Hospital Medical Center - Cincinnati

Cincinnati, Ohio

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$599,999

Benjamin Clayton, Ph.D.

Case Western Reserve University

Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

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

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$553,557

Dimitrios Davalos, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Research Grants

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..

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$563,135

Robert Fox, M.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Strategic Initiatives

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$1,224,590

Elina Misicka, Ph.D.

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Epidemiology

Approx. Funding: \$132,101

“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.

Daniel Ontaneda, M.D., Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 4/1/2019-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$1,451,679

“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.

Matthew Plow, Ph.D.

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$451,374

“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.

Karlo Toljan, M.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$225,000

“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.

Bruce Trapp, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Neuropathology

Approx. Funding: \$660,000

“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.

Jessica Williams, Ph.D.

Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$660,000

“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.

OREGON**Daniel Hartung, Pharm.D., M.P.H.**

Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 2/1/2020-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy

Approx. Funding: \$36,000

“Updating Cost of MS Medication” Researchers at Oregon State University are investigating reasons for the escalating costs of MS treatments.

Michelle Cameron, M.D., P.T.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2019-7/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$624,956

“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.

Gregory Duncan, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2027

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$584,647

“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.

Larry Sherman, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$599,999

“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.

Rebecca Spain, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 10/1/2017-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$1,467,875

“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.

PENNSYLVANIA**Amit Bar-Or, M.D.**

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 4/1/2021-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$375,000

“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.

Lindsay Festa, Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Award: Career Transition Fellowships

Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2028

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: CNS Repair

Approx. Funding: \$610,065

“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.

Edward Gettings, D.O.

Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 3/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Health Care Delivery/ Policy

Approx. Funding: \$202,811

“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.

Jennifer Orthmann Murphy, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$653,875

“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
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$625,528

“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.

Elizabeth Sweeney, Ph.D.

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award
Term: 1/1/2022-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$265,232

“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

TENNESSEE

Francesca Bagnato, M.D., Ph.D.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2019-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Approx. Funding: \$904,640

“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.

TEXAS

Amber Salter, Ph.D., M.P.H.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2022-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$164,558

“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.

Amber Salter, Ph.D., M.P.H.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Epidemiology
Approx. Funding: \$222,760

“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

Olaf Stuve, M.D., Ph.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Diagnostic Methods

Approx. Funding: \$659,363

“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 cells.

Hyun Kyoung Lee, Ph.D.

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$821,063

“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

Manzoor Bhat, Ph.D.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$545,884

“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.

UTAH**Theron Casper, Ph.D.**

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Award: Strategic Initiatives

Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$3,499,411

“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.

Karen Ho, Ph.D.

Clene Nanomedicine
Salt Lake City, Utah

Award: Fast Forward

Term: 4/28/2023-4/28/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Approx. Funding: \$661,402

“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.

Karen Ho, Ph.D.

Clene Nanomedicine

Salt Lake City, Utah

Award: Fast Forward

Term: 9/30/2019-12/31/2023

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity

Approx. Funding: \$339,232

“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.

VIRGINIA**Lindsey Rechtman, Dr.P.H.**

McKing Consulting Corporation

Fairfax, Virginia

Award: Research Contracts

Term: 3/6/2023-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Health Care Delivery and Policy Research

Approx. Funding: \$225,733

“Landscape Analysis Contract” Gathering data on global investments in multiple sclerosis research by non-profit and government organizations

Myla Goldman, M.D.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, Virginia

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Neurophysiology

Approx. Funding: \$259,921

“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.

Myla Goldman, M.D.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, Virginia

Award: Research Grants

Term: 10/1/2019-12/31/2023

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS

Approx. Funding: \$329,238

“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.

Carmen Sato-Bigbee, Ph.D.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, Virginia

Award: Research Grants

Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$600,000

“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.

WASHINGTON

Dawn Ehde, Ph.D.

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington

Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$725,451

Mark Jensen, Ph.D.

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington

Award: Research Grants

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 individuals with MS to learn either self-hypnosis or mindfulness strategies for fatigue management on their own, without needing to work with a trained clinician.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS

Approx. Funding: \$611,701

Ivan Molton, Ph.D.

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS

Approx. Funding: \$1,189,303

Aaron Turner, Ph.D.

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Rehabilitation

Approx. Funding: \$401,426

Yevgeniy Yuzefpolskiy, Ph.D.

Benaroya Research Institute

Seattle, Washington

Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$212,153

WISCONSIN

Bonnie Dittel, Ph.D.

Versiti Blood Research Institute

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$110,000

OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUSTRALIA

Judith Greer, Ph.D.

The University of Queensland

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023

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.

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$100,000

Lachlan Rash, Ph.D.

The University of Queensland

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Approx. Funding: \$584,879

Allan Kermode, M.D.

University of Western Australia

Crawley, Western Australia, Australia

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

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.

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$577,992

Lucinda Black, Ph.D.

Deakin University

Geelong, Victoria, Australia

Award: Research Grants

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Epidemiology

Approx. Funding: \$480,129

Yuyi You, M.D., Ph.D.

Macquarie University
 North Ryde, New South Wales, Australia
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2020-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
 Category: Neuropathology
 Approx. Funding: \$543,272

“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.

BELGIUM**Barbara Willekens, M.D., Ph.D.**

Antwerp University Hospital
 Antwerp, Belgium
 Award: Research Grants
 Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
 Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
 Approx. Funding: \$546,156

“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.

CANADA**Douglas Arnold, M.D.**

McGill University
 Montréal, Quebec, Canada
 Award: International Progressive MS Alliance - Collaborative Network Center
 Term: 1/1/2017-12/31/2023

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
 Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
 Approx. Funding: \$3,947,220

“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

Haritha Desu, Ph.D.

University of Montreal Hospital
 Montréal, Quebec, Canada
 Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
 Term: 7/1/2023-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
 Category: CNS Repair
 Approx. Funding: \$197,528

“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.

Jennifer Gommerman, Ph.D.

University of Toronto
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
 Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
 Category: Immunology
 Approx. Funding: \$300,000

“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

Matthew Lincoln, M.D., Ph.D.

Unity Health Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2022-6/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Human Genetics
Approx. Funding: \$375,000

“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.

Chao Wang, Ph.D.

Sunnybrook Research Institute
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Career Transition Fellowships
Term: 3/1/2021-12/31/2023

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$274,113

“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.

E. Yeh, M.D.

The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2015-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$352,950

“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.

Dalia Rotstein, M.D.

St. Michael's Hospital-Unity Health Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Term: 4/1/2023-3/31/2026

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Epidemiology
Approx. Funding: \$151,000

“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.

E. Yeh, M.D.

The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Award: Functional Recovery RFA - 2023
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Rehabilitation
Approx. Funding: \$134,789

“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

Marc Horwitz, Ph.D.

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Infectious Agents
Approx. Funding: \$25,436

“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

Helen Tremlett, Ph.D.

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021
Term: 10/1/2021-11/7/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Epidemiology
Approx. Funding: \$144,500

“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.

Marc Horwitz, Ph.D.

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023
Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$25,594

“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

Mahmoud Pouladi, Ph.D.

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Award: Research Grants
Term: 1/1/2022-3/31/2024

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$395,200

“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.

FINLAND**Laura Airas, M.D., Ph.D.**

University of Turku
Helsinki, Finland
Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022
Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$600,000

“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.

GERMANY

Stefan Gold, Ph.D.

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Berlin, Germany

Award: Mentor-Based Postdoctoral Fellowships

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.

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function
Category: Psychosocial Aspects of MS
Approx. Funding: \$414,685

Lucas Schirmer, M.D.

University of Heidelberg
Heidelberg, Germany

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Genetics
Approx. Funding: \$358,939

Lisa Ann Gerdes, M.D.

University Hospital LMU Munich Germany
Munich, Germany

Award: Early Detection RFA - Spring 2021

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

Pathway to Cures: Ending MS
Category: Immunology
Approx. Funding: \$297,000

Tanja Kuhlmann, M.D.

University Hospital Münster
Münster, Germany

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

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 these

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Neuropathology
Approx. Funding: \$574,838

ITALY

Francesca Bovis, Ph.D.

University of Genoa
Genoa, Italy

Award: Biostatistics/Informatics Junior Faculty Award

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.

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Diagnostic Methods
Approx. Funding: \$99,000

Martina Absinta, M.D., PhD

Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele
Milano, Italy

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Neuropathology

Approx. Funding: \$534,858

“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.

Roberta Magliozzi, Ph.D.

University of Verona
Verona, Italy

Award: Role of Viruses RFA - 2023

Term: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$100,000

“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.

JAPAN**Yuta Fujimoto, M.B.A.**

J-Pharma Co., Ltd.
Yokohama, Japan

Award: Fast Forward

Term: 8/18/2023-8/17/2024

Pathway to Cures: Restoring Function

Category: Preclinical Drug Development

Approx. Funding: \$600,000

“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.

SPAIN**Manuel Comabella, M.D., Ph.D.**

Hospital Vall Hebron
Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

Award: Research Grants

Term: 5/1/2022-4/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Immunology

Approx. Funding: \$315,090

“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

UNITED KINGDOM**Luca Peruzzotti-Jametti, M.D., Ph.D.**

University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom

Award: Compartmentalized Inflammation RFA - 2022

Term: 10/1/2022-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS

Category: Biology of Glia

Approx. Funding: \$599,422

“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.

Cory Willis, Ph.D.

University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom
Award: Postdoctoral Fellowships
Term: 7/1/2021-6/30/2024

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Biology of Glia
Approx. Funding: \$193,789

“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.

Jeremy Chataway, F.R.C.P., Ph.D.

University College London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Research Grants
Term: 10/1/2017-10/1/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Measuring MS Disease Activity
Approx. Funding: \$448,550

“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.

Klaus Schmierer, F.R.C.P., M.D., Ph.D.

Queen Mary University of London
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 10/1/2020-9/30/2025

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$100,000

“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.

MS Society UK ,

MS Society UK
London, United Kingdom
Award: Strategic Initiatives
Term: 4/1/2017-6/30/2026

Pathway to Cures: Stopping MS
Category: Human Therapy Trials/Management of MS
Approx. Funding: \$1,333,573

“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.