**May 2023**

**Welcome**

News and highlights keeping you informed as we work together to accelerate life-changing treatments for people with progressive MS worldwide

**Alliance Announces New Global Research Initiative to Improve Well-Being as Part of World MS Day Campaign**

**Initiative aims to drive research from early innovation to new programs of care that can be implemented worldwide**

The International Progressive MS Alliance is launching a large scale research program to identify and implement solutions to some of the most challenging symptoms that people with progressive MS experience. The announcement is to mark [this year’s World MS Day](https://worldmsday.org/), a campaign to raise awareness and accelerate progress in ending MS.

“This effort is an important investment in making daily life better for people with progressive MS,” stated Dr. Ruth Ann Marrie, Vice Chair of the Alliance Scientific Steering Committee. “Research is needed to identify, develop, test and implement effective therapies that improve well-being and can be widely adopted.”

The Alliance has completed a Request for Applications as the first stage of a research pipeline in which successful awards will demonstrate a strong expert team that offers the potential for novel therapeutic interventions or outcomes for progressive MS and has the potential to culminate with a large randomized controlled study (Stage 2) and implementation (Stage 3) for adoption into the larger healthcare system. Over 53 applications from 11 countries were received prior to the May 15 deadline. The projects focus on one or more of the following symptoms: fatigue, impairment of mobility and upper limb function, pain, and cognitive impairment.

“Often the hardest part of living with MS are the things that people don’t see. The debilitating fatigue that overwhelms you or the cognitive impairment where you can’t remember the question that your husband just asked you. Having answers to these challenges would be a game-changer in improving the lives of people with MS,” said Marie Vaillant, a member of the Alliance Scientific Steering Committee and a person living with MS.

**Join Us for the 15 June Alliance Global Webcast**

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**Register Now:**[www.msif.org/progressiveMSwebcast](http://www.msif.org/progressiveMSwebcast)/

***Thursday, 15 June, 2023 at 11:00 am EDT, 4:00 pm BST, 5:00 pm CEST***

Don’t miss this breaking news webcast on progressive MS research live from the International Progressive MS Alliance Scientific Congress in Vienna, Austria. Hear the results from 17 innovative research projects funded by the Alliance focused on unraveling the mystery of progression and identifying new targets for treatments that will ultimately slow or stop progression. A panel of international MS experts will share findings and insights that not only inspire hope but demonstrate real progress in ending progressive MS.

The webcast will feature: Professor Bob Fox, MD, Chair of the Alliance Scientific Steering Committee from the Cleveland Clinic, U.S.; Professor Laura Airas, a clinician-scientist from Turku University, Finland; and Dr. Jessica Fletcher, a researcher from the University of Tasmania, Australia. Jon Strum, former member of the Alliance Scientific Steering Committee and the host of the RealTalk MS podcast series will facilitate the session.

The webcast will be streamed from the Facebook pages of the MS International Federation, MS Canada, the MS Society UK and the National MS Society. It can also be seen on the MS International Federation YouTube channel.