**February 2024**

**Welcome**

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

**Alliance Principles of Patient Engagement in Research Adopted**

**Principles aim to increase the impact of Alliance research by ensuring people affected by MS are engaged at every step of the research process**

After a 10-month development and stakeholder engagement process, the Executive Committee approved the Alliance Principles of Patient Engagement in Research in January. The purpose of the principles is to increase the impact of Alliance research by ensuring focus on what matters most to people affected by MS.  It also demonstrates meaningful progress in our Alliance strategic impact to *Improve the Health of People with Progressive MS* and our strategy to *Amplify the Voices and Roles of People Affected by MS*.

People affected by MS have been at the heart of the Alliance since its beginning, including individuals serving on the Scientific Steering Committee, the development of the People Affected by MS Engagement Coordination Team and the ongoing partnership with MULTI-ACT. The development of the principles was a key outcome of the People Affected by MS Engagement Coordination Team in the past year.  Team members Najia Chafai, Martyn Smith, Cory Turner and Marie Vaillant served on the work group charged with developing the principles through a rigorous engagement process of all Alliance stakeholder groups.

Read the principles [here](https://www.progressivemsalliance.org/who-we-are/people-affected-by-ms-engagement-coordination-team/).

**Experts Review Recent Clinical Trials in Progressive MS and Outline Steps to Speed New Treatments**

**Findings published in Lancet Neurology**

International collaborators led by Professor Jeremy Chataway (University College London) have published an overview of recently completed and ongoing clinical trials involving people with progressive forms of multiple sclerosis. The paper reviews recent progress, remaining issues to be resolved, and potential pathways forward to improve trials and speed more effective treatments to people with progressive MS for whom there are few treatment options.

Authors included Alliance Scientific Steering Committee Chair, Professor Robert Fox and Vice Chair, Professor Ruth Ann Marrie. The importance of international collaboration such as the International Progressive MS Alliance is noted.

Read the paper [here](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(24)00027-9/abstract).

**Watch the Recent Alliance Webcast**

New, effective treatments are urgently needed for people with progressive MS. Hear from leading MS experts about the current state of treatments for progressive MS, active clinical trials that may provide new solutions, and research efforts to develop breakthrough treatments to ultimately end MS progression.

Expert panelists include Dr. Robert Fox, Chair of the International Progressive MS Alliance Scientific Steering Committee, Staff Neurologist at the Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis, and Vice-Chair for Research at the Neurological Institute, Cleveland Clinic in the US. Dr Don Mahad is a Senior Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Neurologist at the University of Edinburgh, UK and is currently supported by an Alliance Challenges in Progressive MS Research Award. Clare Walton is Head of Research at the MS Society in the UK where she looks after their research funding progamme and strategic projects including the ground-breaking MS clinical trials platform called Octopus.The webcast is hosted by Kathy Smith, an MS volunteer and advocate who was diagnosed with MS in 2004. Kathy has over 25 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry in research and clinical development and has been an expert advisor to the International Progressive MS Alliance.

Watch [now](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4hxtl38MBQ).