

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRESSIVE MS ALLIANCE

More than hope. **Progress.**



**REVIEW
OF 2025
PROGRESS**

Bernhard living with MS since
1990, Denmark



THE WORLD HAS COME TOGETHER TO END PROGRESSIVE MS

The International Progressive MS Alliance is an unprecedented global collaboration of MS organizations, researchers, clinicians, pharmaceutical companies, and people with progressive MS, working together to address the unmet needs of people affected by progressive MS.

Our promise is more than hope, it is progress.

Today, 19 MS organizations financially contribute to the Alliance. The funding provided by MS organizations equips us to invest in the world's best and most promising research focused on ending progression and progressive MS. These organizations, as well as all member organizations of the MS International Federation ensure that people affected by MS worldwide are informed and inspired by the work of the Alliance. We are also proud to have the support of our Industry Forum Members, as well as our donor, trust and foundation members.



More than hope.
Progress.

2025 ALLIANCE MEMBERS

MANAGING MEMBERS



MS Canada



MEMBERS



TRUST AND FOUNDATION MEMBERS

- Anonymous Donor
- Anonymous Donor
- John and Kris Bradley
- The Alan Buegeleisen Fund
- The Chesney Miles Charitable Fund
- Crush MS
- Foundation for a Better World
- Gil Greenman Fund
- Elizabeth Dawley Hanson
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- Johnson Family
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- MARS Foundation
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- Kathleen C. Moore Foundation
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- The Emanuel Rouvelas Family
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- M&H Schwartz Family Foundations
- Yellow Rose Gala Foundation

INDUSTRY FORUM

Biogen
Bristol Myers Squibb
Genentech Roche
Novartis AG
Sanofi

ASSOCIATE INDUSTRY FORUM MEMBER

Immunic Therapeutics

MORE THAN HOPE. PROGRESS.

The Alliance is united by a clear and ambitious goal: to bring an end to MS progression.

More than one million people worldwide are living with progressive forms of MS. For many, each day brings worsening symptoms and uncertainty about the future.

Our responsibility is to pursue solutions for everyone affected by MS and to ensure that those with progressive MS are supported in managing the disease so that they can lead the life they want to. This happens not only by developing new drug treatments to slow or stop progression, but also by strengthening symptom management, tailoring rehabilitation, and improving overall well-being.

Since its founding, the Alliance has invested more than €40 million in research networks

and early discovery initiatives. These efforts are focused on speeding up the development of new therapies, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical trials, and advancing strategies that enhance quality of life for people living with progressive MS. Today, more than 20 Alliance-supported projects connect hundreds of researchers across more than 20 countries – a global collaboration that continues to expand.

The dedication and expertise of leading scientists, partner organizations, and people living with MS highlight the significance of the Alliance's mission. Thanks to this shared commitment, and the continued generosity and engagement of supporters around the world, the Alliance is building momentum and driving meaningful progress toward lasting change.



Ina, living with MS since 2005, Netherlands



Kirsten, living with MS since 2001, Denmark



William, living with MS since 2008, USA

“Advances in MS diagnosis and treatment are offering new hope to people around the world and changing the course of the disease for many. Yet for more than one million individuals currently living with progressive MS, and for those who will be affected in the future, there is significant work still to be done. Progressive MS continues to demand deeper understanding, greater urgency, and sustained investment.

At the Alliance, we believe meaningful progress only happens through collaboration. We are committed to funding research that uncovers the biological mechanisms driving progression, accelerates and strengthens clinical trials, and advances approaches that improve well-being and day-to-day living.

Our commitment is unwavering: to deliver effective treatments, improve quality of life, and help ensure that people with progressive MS around the world have the opportunity to live their fullest possible lives.”



Tim Coetzee, PhD
Alliance Executive
Committee Chair
National MS Society
President and CEO, U.S.

“We are proud of the global community we’ve brought together to confront the challenges of progressive MS. In the search for answers, we pursue every credible opportunity to champion innovation, apply scientific rigor, and embrace informed risk – recognizing that each step forward is closer to a solution.

Driven by our mission, we seek out and invest in bold, transformative research wherever it emerges, with the potential to meaningfully change lives. By working closely with the global clinical and research community, and in true partnership with people living with progressive MS, we are identifying the most critical gaps in care and knowledge. With focus, agility, and discipline, we strive not only to advance science but to inspire others to join us in this work.

Together, we will continue pushing forward and reshaping what is possible for people living with progressive MS.”



Robert Fox, MD
Alliance Scientific Steering
Committee Chair
Mellen Center for MS
Vice Chair for Research,
Neurological Institute
Cleveland Clinic, U.S.

ALLIANCE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Alliance ensures focus and discipline in accelerating the development of effective treatments for people with progressive MS through our Strategic Plan.



WE FOCUS ON THREE SCIENTIFIC PRIORITIES:

- 1 Understand, prevent and reverse progression
- 2 Speed up and improve clinical trials
- 3 Improve well-being through proven therapeutic approaches

WE ACHIEVE THESE PRIORITIES BY:

- ✓ Broadening and deepening global collaboration
- ✓ Expanding investments and resources worldwide
- ✓ Engaging, inspiring and mobilizing
- ✓ Amplifying the voices and roles of people affected by MS

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIORITY: UNDERSTAND, PREVENT AND REVERSE PROGRESSION

Accelerating new, life-changing treatments for people with progressive MS requires new insights and knowledge into the causes of progression. By determining what triggers MS progression, researchers will be better prepared to focus their efforts on developing breakthroughs to slow, stop, and ultimately, reverse disability.



CHALLENGES IN PROGRESSIVE MS AWARDS

The Alliance is currently funding **six** research projects totaling €3.8 million that have shown significant potential to provide valuable insights into the drivers of MS progression while testing therapies to slow progression.

Examples of these research initiatives include:

- Conducting a small clinical trial testing the efficacy of a drug that blocks immune cell signaling to slow progression
- Advancing the understanding of the biological pathways that contribute to MS progression, including the immune system
- Understanding why nerve and other cells in the brain and spinal cord die in progressive MS, and identifying protective treatments that can be tested in clinical trials

Early findings from one project at the University of Turku in Finland were presented at the 2025ECTRIMS Congress – the world’s largest meeting on the research and treatment of MS. The study has shown that positron emission tomography (PET) imaging can detect signs of progression that cannot be seen on MRI.

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIORITY: UNDERSTAND, PREVENT AND REVERSE PROGRESSION

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH NETWORKS

The first-of-their-kind International Collaborative Research Networks remain central to the Alliance's research portfolio. Two of the current networks are focused on our priority of understanding, preventing and reversing progression.

Modulating the Innate Immune System in Progressive MS



The network led by Professor Francisco Quintana from Harvard in the United States focuses on the innate immune system. While the innate immune system normally functions to protect the body from infections, Dr. Quintana and others have found that signaling between innate immune cells in the central nervous system can promote disease activity in MS.

After screening multiple molecules that modify innate immune cell activity in the central nervous system, the network focused on a specific compound that could protect the brain from damage and could be developed as a breakthrough treatment. In its current phase, Dr. Quintana's network is working to further develop this compound for use in clinical trials, teaming up with drug development experts to devise a safe and optimal version of the compound and then conduct tests in MS models.

Bioinformatics and Cell Reprogramming to Develop a Platform for New Drug Discovery



The network led by Professor Gianvito Martino, at San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, Italy, consisted of a collaborative network of investigators from Europe, Canada and the U.S. The collective knowledge and capabilities of this group do not exist anywhere else in academia or industry. Professor Martino's team developed an innovative drug discovery platform that leverages the best scientific knowledge and uses cutting-edge technology to identify molecules that may protect nerve cells and/or promote myelin repair.

The network completed its initial round of research and identified a selective histamine H3 receptor antagonist as a promising candidate for treating progressive MS. With additional funding from the Alliance awarded in 2025, this network is extending its study of H3 receptor antagonists to further define their role in remyelination and neuroprotection in the central nervous system.

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIORITY: SPEED UP AND IMPROVE CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials for a new progressive MS therapy can take up to five years and require millions of Euros. But people living with progressive MS simply can't wait that long to see if a new treatment is viable. That is why it's critically important to be able to test multiple approaches in a shorter time span with a lower level of investment required.

EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE TRIAL AWARDS

In 2025, the Alliance awarded five Experimental Medicine Trial Awards to improve the speed and efficacy of clinical trials as well as create new understanding about progressive MS biology. Three 18-month projects, funded at €100,000 each, are focused on planning, developmental efforts, and/or validation opportunities with a goal of growing into full clinical trials to help us better understand MS progression and find new treatments for the disease. In addition, two full-scale clinical trials were awarded for a total of €3.5 million and are described below:

Testing Hydroxychloroquine to Reduce Brain Inflammation



Professor Laura Airas and her team (Turku University Hospital, Finland) will test whether hydroxychloroquine—a drug long used for malaria and autoimmune diseases—can reduce inflammation in the brain, specifically the activation

of microglial cells that contribute to disease progression in multiple sclerosis. The study will use positron emission tomography (PET) imaging to measure microglial activation and incorporate advanced MRI techniques as biomarkers to help accelerate future drug development.

GLP-1 Receptor Agonists for Neuroprotection



Dr. Ellen Mowry (Johns Hopkins University, USA) and her team will investigate whether GLP-1 receptor agonists, currently used to treat diabetes and obesity, can reduce brain inflammation and protect neurons, which they

believe will reduce the risk of progression in those with MS, or slow down disease progression in those with progressive MS. The two-year trial will compare NLY01, an experimental GLP1-agonist, to a placebo, using imaging, blood biomarkers, neurological examinations, and patient-reported outcomes to assess effectiveness.

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

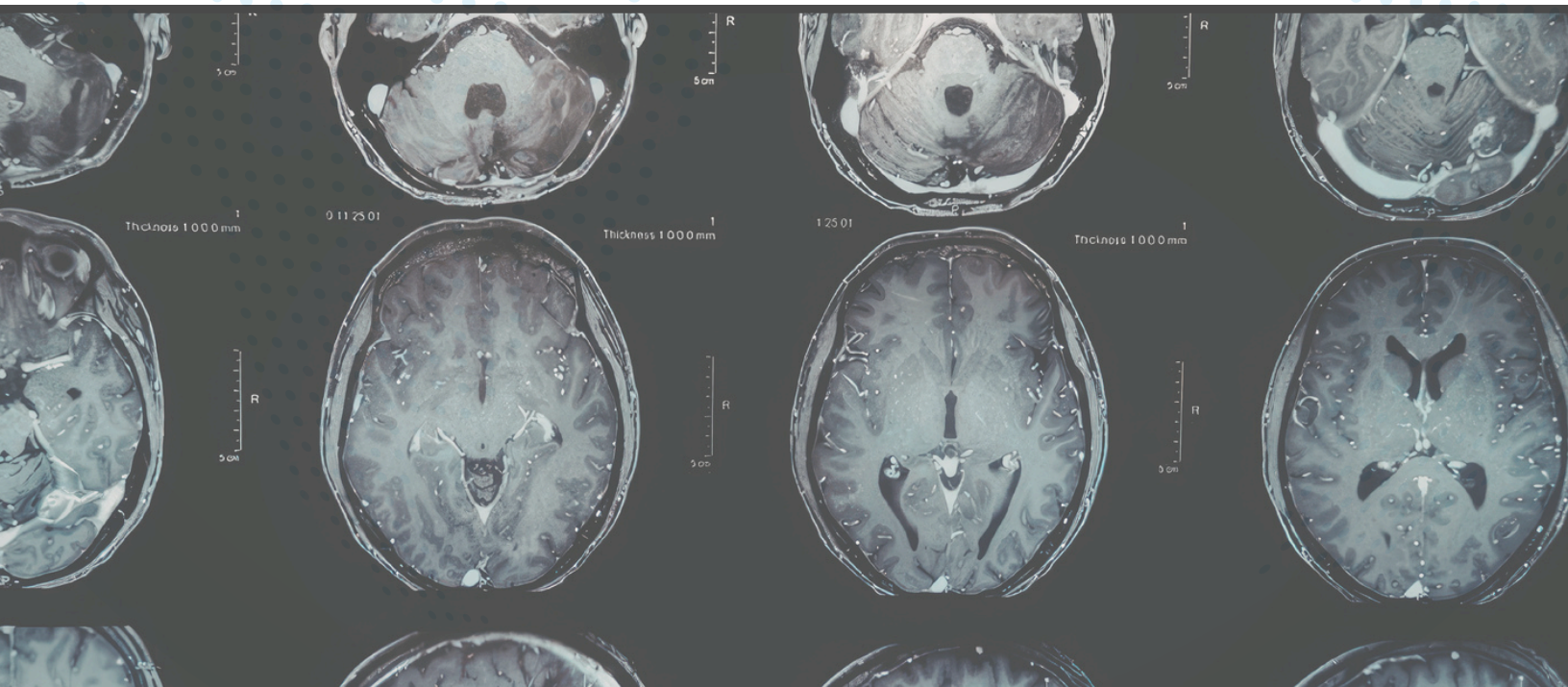
PRIORITY: SPEED UP AND IMPROVE CLINICAL TRIALS

IMAGING BIOMARKERS: Shorter, Less Expensive Clinical Trials Through Optimized MRI Endpoints Using Artificial Intelligence

Led by Professor Tal Arbel from McGill University in Canada, this project is using large language models (LLMs) to develop image-based, causal deep learning models to predict future disability progression in MS, including PIRA and clinical disease progression.

The underlying idea is that disease progression in MS is detectable in the brain by MRI prior to its identification by physicians in a clinic visit, and that the trajectory of progression can be predicted from just two MRI scans. Additionally, the use of AI and machine learning tools may enable clinicians to evaluate whether a potential treatment is slowing or reversing damage in the brain, making it possible to reduce the time of the clinical trial by as much as 50 percent and with fewer people needed in the trial.

This team is training their models on the data gathered by the original Arnold Collaborative Network, which had previously assembled and harmonized over 72,000 MRI scans from 13,500 people.



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIORITY: SPEED UP AND IMPROVE CLINICAL TRIALS

MS CLINICAL AND IMAGING DATA RESOURCE (MS CIDR)

In 2025, the Alliance announced the development of its MS Clinical and Imaging Data Resource (CIDR), which provides the academic and research community access to anonymized and harmonized MRI and clinical data from thousands of people living with MS who participated in one of many clinical trials. In conjunction with McGill University in Montréal, Canada, and four industry partners – Biogen, Novartis, Roche and Sanofi – the Alliance is making this resource available exclusively to the MS research community to help accelerate understanding of MS progression and speed up clinical trials aimed at finding solutions for progressive MS.

Included in the resource is anonymized data collected from pharmaceutical industry trials, including approximately 72,000 MRI scans, as well as data from 200,000 clinical visits from more than 13,500 people with MS. The data was originally collected as part of a collaborative network award led by Dr. Douglas Arnold at McGill University.

A paramount example of how the Alliance unites global talent, engages industry partners and is steadfast in its commitment to solving progressive MS, the highly anticipated Clinical and Imaging Data Resource will be open for applications in Spring 2026.



Vanessa, living with MS since 1998, Australia

“The MS Clinical and Imaging Data Resource is so exciting. It’s going to be life-changing for people living with progressive MS. The ability for researchers to use the data from upwards of 70,000 MRIs is bound to result in some meaningful information that will transform treatment in the future. And the best thing about it is that it’s using MRIs that we - people living with MS - have already subjected ourselves to, so we don’t have to do anything new.”

- Vanessa Fanning (AUS), Chair of the Alliance’s People Affected by MS Engagement Coordination Team

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIORITY: IMPROVE WELL-BEING FOR PEOPLE WITH PROGRESSIVE MS

Ensuring people with progressive MS can live fulfilling lives requires effectively addressing the multitude of symptoms that disrupt daily life.

WELL-BEING RESEARCH PIPELINE

The Well-being Research Pipeline is a large, multi-stage initiative to design, test and implement innovative approaches to address some of the most difficult aspects of living with progressive MS: fatigue, cognitive impairment, pain and mobility – including upper limb function. In 2023, the Alliance awarded nine planning grants to investigators overseeing a variety of well-being research projects. These projects were completed in 2025, and all were invited to apply for additional funding to conduct efficacy trials for the proposed interventions. From those who applied, three research projects – one focused on pain, one on walking capacity and fatigue, and the other on focused rehabilitation – were selected to move forward and funded for a total of €6.9 million.

Comparison of Self-Guided, Coached and Therapist-Delivered Pain Self-Management in Adults with Progressive Multiple Sclerosis

Dawn Ehde, PhD
University of Washington
(United States)

Can Priming Enhance Rehabilitation Success in Progressive MS? – The Can-PRIME MS Trial

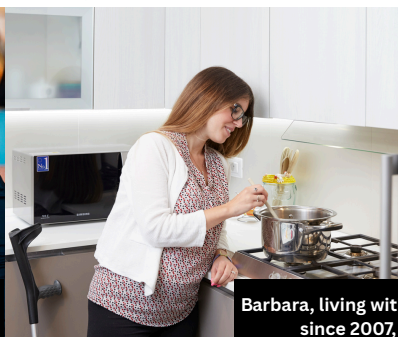
Lara Pilutti, PhD
University of Ottawa and
(Canada)

A Multi-Modal, Tailored and Adaptive Exercise Program to Improve Walking Capacity in Persons with Progressive MS and Abnormal Fatigability

Peter Feys, PhD
Hasselt University
(Belgium)



Bernhard, living with MS since 1990, Denmark



Barbara, living with MS since 2007, Italy



Maartin, living with MS since 2007, Netherlands



Kerrie, living with MS since 2008, Australia

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

UNITING GLOBAL TALENT: THE 2025 DIGITAL TOOLS WORKSHOP

In line with its mission, the International Progressive MS Alliance hosted a scientific workshop focused on the current and future landscape of digital tools in MS in Philadelphia in June 2025.

Organized by a Scientific Meeting Planning Committee convened by the Alliance, the two-day workshop brought together 100 MS experts, foundation members, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, donors, and people affected by progressive MS from around the globe to discuss topics critical for the effective development and adoption of digital tools for progressive MS. Presentations, panel discussions, and breakout groups considered the current state of digital tools, the opportunities for using them in clinical trials and clinical care, potential challenges and limitations moving forward, and critical next steps to ensure that digital tools can be used to their full potential to accelerate MS research and improve outcomes for people living with progressive MS.

The chairs of the meeting, Dr. Ruth Ann Marrie and Dr. Jennifer Graves, have written a paper outlining the implications of and need for digital tools in MS research, which is expected to be published in a scientific journal in 2026 and inform our next steps in this area.



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES AND ROLES OF PEOPLE WITH PROGRESSIVE MS

People Affected by MS Engagement Coordination Team

People affected by MS are actively involved in every aspect of the Alliance. The Engagement Coordination Team in 2025 was made up of seven individuals from six different countries who provided their expertise and lived experience to inform and prioritize Alliance work. Their collective efforts help ensure the Alliance maintains focus on where the greatest impact can be achieved in improving the health of people with progressive MS worldwide.

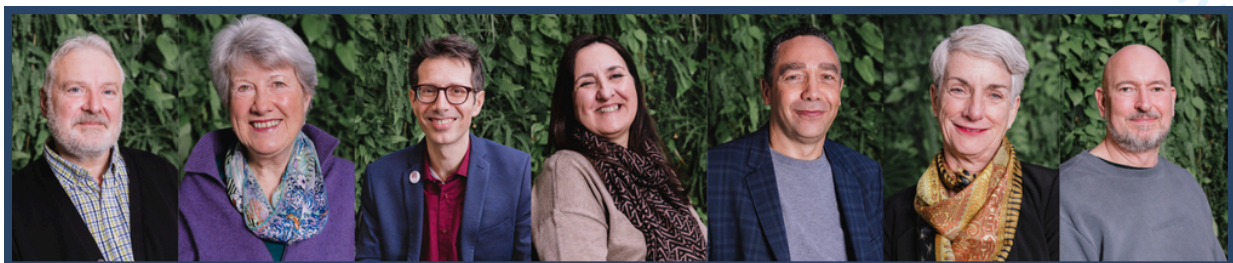


The Engagement Coordination Team played a key role in the overall content of the Digital

Tools Workshop. One member served on the planning committee, and team members participated in several sessions and panel discussions, sharing their lived experience and perspectives on the accessibility, usability, benefits and barriers of digital solutions in their MS treatment and rehabilitation.

Additional highlights of the Engagement Coordination Team's initiatives this year include:

- Reviewed applications and made recommendations on research funding for investment in Well-being Phase II Efficacy Awards
- Served on other committees of the Alliance, including the Scientific Steering Committee and the Governing Committee of the MS Clinical and Imaging Data Resource
- Hosted and participated in Alliance webcasts, sharing the progress of the Alliance
- Engaged with donors who support the Alliance
- Presented the Principles of Patient Engagement to a group of pharmaceutical industry professionals
- Shared input with a global research committee working to evaluate MS disease course descriptors



LOOKING AHEAD

The Alliance continues to build strong momentum toward delivering transformative therapies that improve the lives of people living with MS around the world. By 2030, we will have invested €60 million in a diverse portfolio of research efforts aligned with our three strategic priorities.

We remain steadfast in our resolve to move forward with urgency and focus.

Every day, people with progressive MS face irreversible losses caused by this unpredictable disease, underscoring the urgent need for solutions that can meaningfully improve quality of life. Stopping MS progression is a formidable and aspirational goal, and meeting a challenge of this scale demands the collective commitment, resources, and drive of the entire MS community.

By joining forces, we become a powerful catalyst for progress for those affected by progressive MS. **Together, we are stronger than progressive MS.**



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