

The Disease



- MS is a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system with no known cause or cure
- MS damages the tissue surrounding nerves, short-circuiting the nervous system and interfering with messages between the brain and the body
- There is a wide range of MS symptoms, including numbness, tremors, pain, loss of vision, cognitive problems and mobility issues

The Research



- Since 1946, the Society has invested more than \$850 million in research and is the leading private funder of MS research in the world
- This year, the Society will commit \$50 million to more than 300 research projects taking place around the world
- In 2013, the Society launched the Progressive MS Alliance which is bringing together experts from all over the world to accelerate our understanding and create treatments that work on the most aggressive form of the disease

The Numbers



- Approximately 2.3 million people worldwide have been diagnosed with MS
- The Greater Delaware Valley chapter serves more than 15,000 people living with MS
- Up to four times as many women have MS as men and most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50
- The lifetime pricetag of living with MS is nearly \$3 million for medications, lost wages and other costs

The National MS Society

- The National MS Society's mission is to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS
- Because of dedicated volunteer support, it costs the Society less than 17 cents to raise a dollar – an expense ratio well below the average for non-profit organizations
- The MS Society partners with people living with MS to address their immediate and long-term needs so they can lead their best possible lives, including:
 - Daily life: By connecting with a self-help group, finding a care manager, or making homes more accessible, we can help people address the many challenges of MS
 - The information people need: Through workshops, the 1-800-FIGHT-MS call center, the Society web site, e-newsletters and more, we provide the information people need when they need it
 - Caring for caregivers: MS affects every family member, especially those closest to the person living with the disease; that's why we provide respite help, counseling services and family programs
 - Crisis assistance: The unpredictable nature of MS means people sometimes find themselves with nowhere else to turn; we connect with community resources or provide emergency help for utility payments, transportation to medical appointments, household repairs and beyond

The Treatments



- There are 12 FDA-approved treatments, but they only slow disease progression and do not work for everyone
- There are no FDA-approved treatments for primary progressive MS, the most debilitating form of the disease
- Until the first oral therapy was approved in 2010, all treatments for MS required injections or infusions; today there are 3 treatments that come in pill or capsule form and more are expected
- Also in 2010, regulators approved the first treatments for symptoms of MS, including a drug that improves walking ability