



## **THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY**

- The National Multiple Sclerosis Society funds more MS research, offers more services to people with MS, provides more professional education programs and advances more MS advocacy efforts than any other MS organization in the world.
- The Society partners with the healthcare community to promote quality healthcare, and through its home office and 50-state network of chapters, the Society serves over a million people annually. Information on MS and the Society's services is available 24-hours a day by calling 1-800 FIGHT MS or by visiting the Society's Website [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org).
- Approximately 1250 staff members and 460,000 volunteers carry out the Society's daily operations. It has some 500,000 general members, including 342,000 individuals who have MS.
- The Society's mission is to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis on behalf of the 400,000 Americans who have MS and their families.
- Nationwide income in 2005 was \$207 million. Less than 3% of that income is from pharmaceutical companies and was received in the form of grants.
- Approximately 78% of Society income is devoted to research and service programs while 22% is invested in support services such as fund raising and Society management. It costs the Society less than 16 cents to raise a dollar.
- The Society spent over \$40 million in 2005 to support over 350 research projects internationally. Since its founding by Sylvia Lawry in March 1946, the Society has expended over \$500 million to advance MS research.
- It has been at the core of virtually every major breakthrough in treating and understanding the disease during the last 60 years. In addition to its research efforts, the Society also spent more than \$114 million in 2005 on programs to improve the lives of those with MS.

- The U.S. Society is one of 38 sister Societies forming the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation also founded by Sylvia Lawry, who died at age 86 in 2001.
- President & CEO of the Society is Joyce Nelson, who came up through the ranks of the organization, devoting more than two decades to the MS cause
- MS is an unpredictable, chronic, and often disabling disease of the central nervous system. It is the most common neurological disease affecting young to middle-aged adults and virtually each hour someone is newly diagnosed. MS is not fatal, contagious or directly inherited. Advances in treating and understanding MS are achieved daily; and there are at least five FDA approved therapies available that can impact underlying disease course.
- Some prominent Americans with MS are: Teri Garr, Annette Funicello, Jonathan Katz, Zoe Koplowitz, David Lander, Alan Osmond, Ellen Sue Stern, Jackie Waldman, Victoria Williams, Clay Walker, Tamia Washington, and Montel Williams, as well as the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, cellist Jacqueline du Pre' and comedian Richard Pryor.