



# MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS update

( VOL. 9 : SPRING 2010 )

## INSIDE

A Message from  
Carolyn Cronin, Chief  
Executive Officer . . . . .2

Organization  
Profile: MS Research  
Australia . . . . .2

Volunteer Highlight:  
Sandra Aussem . . . . .3

Employee Profile . . . . .3

CCSVI: Could MS  
be a "Plumbing  
Problem"? . . . . .4

Do You Have  
Committee  
Commitment  
Phobia? . . . . .6

Recent Events . . . . .6

Campaign Update . . .6

Campaign Donor  
Recognition . . . . .7

Upcoming Events . . . . .7

## Your Samples and Data: Contributing to a Cure

If you are among the 1,950 people who have enrolled into the Accelerated Cure Project repository, you know well that your study visit consisted of a blood draw, an interview, and, if you are diagnosed with a demyelinating disease, a review of your medical records by a neurologist. The samples and data collected from you are stored anonymously and become part of a treasure trove of resources that are provided to scientists around the world. The samples and data you gave can support not just one but many, many scientists. What you may not know is how your valuable samples and data ultimately end up in the hands of these scientists.

We regularly receive proposals from researchers, both academic and commercial, seeking access to repository samples, or data, or both. We review the proposals internally to ensure that they are aligned with our mission and that we will be able to meet the request. During this process we work closely with the scientist as we cull the data in the repository database to identify samples that will meet their needs. Some scientists request samples using very specific criteria, such as time from diagnosis, or treatment status, while others are doing experiments that can utilize all or nearly all of the samples in the repository. We always encourage scientists to request as many samples as they need as we recognize the value of the repository comes from the samples and data being used, studied, and analyzed!

After the first phase, the proposal is reviewed by our Repository Oversight Committee, which consists of the principal investigators from our collection sites, a representative from the Transverse Myelitis Association ([www.myelitis.org](http://www.myelitis.org)) and a member of Accelerated Cure Project's staff. The committee reviews the proposal for scientific merit and potential benefit to those with MS and related demyelinating diseases. They make a recommendation to approve or deny the request, and Accelerated Cure Project makes the final determination of whether or not to supply the samples and/or data.

Once the proposal is approved and we have completed a materials transfer agreement with the scientist, we finalize the list of samples and data to be distributed. To date we have distributed samples and/or data to nearly 30 scientists, both domestically and internationally, and there's a good chance that your sample is among them. Your samples and data may be in the hands of scientists both near and far who are actively working to prevent, predict, and even cure MS and related diseases. You are instrumental to this research and the breakthroughs that may follow.

If you haven't yet enrolled, are you intrigued by the thought of participating in this important research? To learn more, call Repository Director, Sara Loud, at 781-487-0032, or visit the repository section of our website at [www.acceleratedcure.org/repository](http://www.acceleratedcure.org/repository)

## A Message from Carolyn Cronin, Chief Executive Officer



One of the most significant factors in Accelerated Cure Project's ability to advance our mission is the dedicated volunteer who is involved in a program, special event, or other initiative.

Thanks to the leadership and community partnerships developed through people like Sandra Aussem, Chairwoman of the

Chicago Hello Stiletto Shoe Ball; Debbie Mann, "Opening Doors" campaign committee member; and Tyler & Bill Hamilton, Chairmen of MS Global, we have been able to increase worldwide awareness and understanding of Accelerated Cure Project's mission.

As you read the stories in this newsletter, you will see the many roles volunteers play, and how getting the right person to fill each of these roles is essential to our success. The energy, passion and commitment of volunteers is contagious – they are personally responsible for **accelerating** a cure.

Close to **2,000** volunteers have given their blood and data at one of the **9** repository sites and **126** have already returned for their longitudinal visit. **30** scientific teams are using these samples in advancing our mission of curing MS by determining its causes, triggers, and disease mechanisms.

To support our mission so that we can enable critical breakthroughs for people with MS, we ask you to become involved in one or more of the following:

- Join a special event committee in your community
- Support the *Opening Doors* major gift campaign
- Participate in a letter writing campaign
- Donate your blood/data at one of our national MS repository sites
- Commit your time by providing regularly scheduled administrative help in our office

With your support, we will be able to address head-on the challenges of understanding MS — a complex, heterogeneous disease that has baffled scientists for over a century.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pete Damilatis at 781-487-0011 or [pete@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:pete@acceleratedcure.org). It just takes one step to make a difference in the lives of those affected by MS.

Best regards,  
Carolyn Cronin

## Organization Profile: MS Research Australia

By Jeremy Wright and Christine Remediakis

MS Australia is an organization of state-based MS Societies that look after the estimated 20,000 Australians with MS. In 2004 it set up MS Research Australia (MSRA) to act as its research arm.

MSRA's mission is relatively broad - to accelerate Australian research that will lead to better treatments and diagnosis, prevention and ultimately a cure for MS. However, our strategy has a more specific focus - on the strengths of Australian research that contribute to the worldwide effort to solve MS.

These strengths include work on the environmental influences on MS including Vitamin D deficiency and Epstein Barr Virus. Coupled with more recent discoveries in genetics (linked with the International MS Genetics Consortium), this work is converging on 'prevention strategies' for MS.

The amount of MS research in Australia is modest on an international scale – now worth about US\$6-\$8 million yearly - but it has increased considerably over the last five years, thanks to MSRA's influence.

The portfolio of research has been augmented by 'platform projects', usually involving collaborations, with MSRA either funding the platforms or acting as a secretariat, including:

- A five-site Ausimmune study of environmental influences
- The Australia-New Zealand MS Gene Bank and genetics research consortium
- A national Clinical Trials Network
- The recently established national MS Brain Bank
- An Australia-wide Longitudinal Study focused on quality-of-life issues in MS

MSRA is also increasing its emphasis on research Scholarships and Fellowships – now at a senior level and with overseas collaborations – to make sure the best available talent is attracted to and retained in MS research.

With increasing liaisons overseas, including with the Accelerated Cure Project, we are keen to extend the research frontiers, to target specific outcomes and to better contribute to the international effort and ultimate goal of solving MS.

More information about MSRA is available from our website [www.msra.org.au](http://www.msra.org.au)

## Volunteer Highlight: Sandra Aussem



**Hometown:** Newton, MA, but I now reside in Chicago, IL

**Years as ACP Volunteer:** 3

**Current Project:** Hello Stiletto Shoe Ball; Chicago

**Recent Project:** Last year, on November 20th, we held

Chicago's first Hello Stiletto "Shoe Ball" benefiting the Accelerated Cure Project for MS. With the amazing support of our committee, sponsors, volunteers, contributing businesses and staff at ACP, we were able to raise \$10,000. Our next Chicago "Shoe Ball" will be November 19th, and you should plan on attending to support ACP!

### What drives you to stay involved with ACP?

I was touched by the work ACP was doing to help others suffering with MS. Many more

women than men are afflicted with MS, so having a vehicle like the Hello Stiletto Shoe Club to bring ACP's message to over 1,500 Chicago members and their friends has great potential to grow awareness and hopefully funds for the organization.

Though my life is a busy one filled with love for my husband, four children, and friends, as well as dealing with a growing family business, I still get great satisfaction from helping those in need. Since I live by the motto, "Give away all that has been given," my heart has grown through my charity work. So many people have lost so much, or don't have a helping hand to give them a fighting chance against a disease they suffer with. Because ACP is actually committed to determining a cure for MS, it is a charity that I can stand behind. Not only do the founder, staff, and ACP volunteers work like a well-oiled machine, they also create a family environment that offers hope to those who suffer from MS. I hope you, too, will get involved because the rewards are priceless.

## Employee Profile



**Name/Nickname:** Pete Damilatis

**Occupation:** Special Events Coordinator

**Last Job/Occupation:** Website Syndication Account Manager at Salary.com

**Reason for joining Accelerated Cure Project:** While

looking for a job that had a greater purpose than helping my company's stock price go up, I volunteered at the October Recognition Dinner and was overwhelmed by both the organization's support and impact.

**Current Residence:** South Boston, MA

**Hometown:** Flushing, Queens (Go Mets)

**Ideal vacation spot:** Madrid, Spain, where I studied abroad as a Boston College student

**Favorite 3 movies:** *Wet Hot American Summer*, *Gangs of New York*, *It's a Wonderful Life*

**What's the craziest thing you've ever done?** I woke up at 5am after a wedding in Palm Springs, flew to Chicago, drove to Green Bay, tailgated for 7 hours in -23° weather and watched the Giants beat the Packers to go to the Super Bowl. Until I have my first child, this will be the greatest day of my life.

## VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are a precious resource! These generous folks have been giving their time to Accelerated Cure Project in recent months:

### ADMINISTRATION

Janice O'Donnell  
Jeff Shapiro  
Kelly Novak  
Patricia Follansbee  
William Senne

### BOSTON MARATHON 2010

Cristina Doherty  
David Gordon Hanthorn  
Greg Mastel  
Jessica Rodenhauer  
Jim Lim  
Joe Canavan  
John Cunniffe  
Laura Cronin  
Lesley Toops  
Rebecca Mackelprang  
Zach Natale

### CALENDAR FOR A CAUSE 2009

Billie Mendoza  
Christina Urbanowicz  
Debbie Mann  
Jane Harter  
Jodi Koehler

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

Pat Phelps

### HELLO STILETTO SHOE BALL 2009 CHICAGO

Alicia Geisler  
Bridget Carroll  
Jackie Nakumura  
Judy Schultz  
Melanie Aussem-Walk  
Rashida Jones  
Sandra Aussem  
Stephen Huntley

### HELLO STILETTO SHOE BALL 2010 BOSTON

Belinda Van der Voort  
Deb La Rocca  
Janet Roche  
Marie Rudzinsky  
Melissa O'Horo  
Nancy Costello  
Rachel Elias  
Rebecca Petersen  
Shelley Hachman  
Tracey Cleversey

### MEDEIROS FAMILY FUNDRAISER 2010

Judy Medeiros  
Nancy Medeiros

### MIT TOONS CONCERT 2009

Leslie Nachbar

### MS SCHOLARSHIPS 2009

Rick Szczepanski

### MUSIC TO CURE MS 2009

Marion Leeds Carroll

### MUSIC TO CURE MS 2010

Marion Leeds Carroll

### NEW YORK SYMPOSIUM

Asha Mellor  
Sarina Sivilli

### RECOGNITION DINNER 2010

Carolyn Potts  
Rob Lubner  
Steven Kanner

# CCSVI: Could MS be a “Plumbing Problem”?

By Hollie Schmidt

For those who follow the MS research news diligently like we do, it seems like every other week there’s a new breakthrough that stirs up excitement and gets lots of media coverage. A lot of times these “breakthroughs” wind up just being preliminary evidence that would take years of further development to lead to something real. However, the recent news about chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency, or CCSVI for short, may provide more actual cause for excitement than, say, the latest cure for mice with EAE. This theory proposes that vein obstruction is involved in MS and has generated a great deal of discussion, both in traditional media outlets and on MS websites.

The idea that vein blockages could be involved in MS has captured the attention of the MS community for a couple of reasons. First, it’s different from the prevailing autoimmune theory of MS, which has never been fully explained, and second, it offers the potential of surgical correction, which is different from the current drug-based treatment approach. Also, there’s a compelling personal story behind the research: the vascular surgeon behind CCSVI, Dr. Paolo Zamboni, was motivated to study MS by his wife who has the disease.

Since Accelerated Cure Project was founded to cure MS by determining its causes, and since CCSVI may play a role in triggering MS, this is a topic we are following with interest. Only further research will determine whether this is an actual breakthrough or not, but in the meantime here’s what we know right now.

## What is CCSVI and what evidence supports its involvement in MS?

CCSVI is a phenomenon in which the veins that drain blood away from the brain and the spine are narrowed, twisted, or otherwise blocked, impeding the flow of blood. Veins are like the pipes that drain water from buildings, with smaller pipes feeding into larger pipes until the water reaches its

destination. If a pipe in your house or neighborhood is clogged, wastewater may drain more slowly than normal or even back up, going the wrong direction. Similarly, in CCSVI, blood drains slower and may even flow backwards into the brain or spinal region, which is called reflux. The blood may also take alternate pathways through other veins in order to reach the heart.

The initial evidence for CCSVI being involved in MS comes from a study performed by Dr. Zamboni and his colleagues in Italy using special techniques to evaluate blood flow (doppler ultrasound and venography, which involves imaging veins with the help of a dye). Each of the 65 MS subjects they tested showed evidence of reflux and/or obstructions, also called stenoses, in various veins draining the brain and spine. However, these abnormalities were present in only a few of the 235 controls evaluated. The types of obstructions detected appeared to follow different patterns in people with different subtypes of MS. For example, subjects with primary progressive MS were more likely than others to have multiple abnormalities present in the spinal veins.

This initial study had the drawback of being performed at a single center using ultrasound, a technique that can produce varying results when performed by different operators. Therefore, the results need to be validated by studies performed by other groups. Preliminary data from one such study conducted at the University of Buffalo, based on a cohort of 500 people, showed that 56% of the MS subjects and 22% of the controls met two of the five criteria developed to confirm CCSVI. Complete results from these 500 subjects, as well as results from an additional 500 subjects being studied with advanced tools, will be presented later.

Previous studies provide additional evidence for blood flow abnormalities in MS. For example, imaging studies have demonstrated reduced blood flow through brain tissue (perfusion) in

people with MS. Various explanations have been proposed for this finding, but reduced drainage out of a region could have an impact on blood flow through the region.

## Does CCSVI cause MS?

Assuming that the imaging studies connecting CCSVI with MS are upheld by further research, the logical next question is whether CCSVI causes or triggers MS, or is itself an effect of MS? Also, if CCSVI results from MS, once it’s present, does it contribute to disease activity or progression? These are vitally important questions and can be answered in different ways. One approach is to look for evidence of CCSVI in people in varying stages of the disease. If it isn’t present in people at their first symptom but does appear in people who have had the disease for longer, then it could be an effect of MS, resulting from MS disease activity, MS-related changes in brain structure and size, effects of MS drugs, or other aspects of the disease. Although the Italian study detected no correlation between CCSVI and disease duration, the Buffalo team reported finding a correlation in their preliminary results.

On the other hand, if CCSVI is present and constant from the beginning – and if it is even present before people experience symptoms or have any MRI-visible lesions – that would support CCSVI as a cause or trigger of MS. Many blood vessel abnormalities are congenital, so perhaps ultrasound imaging of young siblings or children of people with MS could provide evidence for CCSVI being present at the start, which would give weight to its influencing the development of MS.

Studying whether CCSVI characteristics change along with the transition from relapsing-remitting to secondary progressive MS could also help define how CCSVI affects MS or vice versa. The Italian study did note a higher percentage of both internal jugular veins being blocked in SPMS subjects, but this finding was based on only a small number of subjects.

How might reduced vein outflow cause, trigger, or promote disease activity in a disease like MS? Various hypotheses have been suggested by Dr. Zamboni and others to connect CCSVI to lesion formation, inflammation, loss of myelin, and neurodegeneration. Tissue analyses, and more recently, high-strength MRI studies, have shown that lesions tend to surround and follow the course of veins. It may be that higher blood pressure behind an obstructed vein stretches the vein walls, making them more porous, while forcing blood into the surrounding tissue (extravasation). Indeed, studies using MRI or post-mortem tissue analysis have found evidence of vein damage, hemorrhage, and blood coagulation in MS lesions or brain tissue. Blood carries iron which has been associated with neurodegeneration, and has also been found in increased levels in MS lesions and deep gray matter structures. Finally, unlike pipes which are rigid and relatively inert, blood vessels are flexible and made up of living cells which are sensitive to the mechanical forces presented by blood flow. Disturbance or reversal of blood flow through vessels could therefore induce a response in these cells which could affect the integrity of the blood-brain barrier. Perhaps some or all of these mechanisms could link CCSVI to MS disease activity. Much more work needs to be done to understand how MS and CCSVI are related.

#### **If CCSVI causes or contributes to MS, what can and should be done?**

Dr. Zamboni followed up his imaging study by using angioplasty to treat MS subjects who presented evidence of CCSVI. Stenoses identified in these subjects were expanded by tiny balloons that were threaded into the veins and then inflated. Some of the blocked veins could not be treated, and one subject was treated with a stent (a small tube left inside the vein to hold it open). At 18 months, nearly 100% of the treated azygos veins (a vein that runs up along the spine) remained open, compared with just over half of the internal jugular veins. Positive effects on functioning, quality of life, and reduction of relapses and enhancing lesions were reported, particularly for RRMS subjects whose stenoses were corrected. However, this study did not have a control group, and all subjects knew they were being treated, leaving open the possibility for a placebo

effect. The placebo effect is known to be very strong in surgery, as illustrated by a 2002 study that compared a certain knee surgery procedure with fake surgery in people with osteoarthritis. Both the real and fake surgery produced equivalent improvements in knee function and pain relief. The placebo effect may have contributed to the positive results in Dr. Zamboni's study as well.

Some people with MS have received stents from other surgeons on a non-research basis. Another possible treatment option is open surgery on the veins. There are significant risks associated with these options – for example, stents can come loose and travel toward the heart. Only a properly designed, controlled, and blinded study can tell whether the benefits provided by the different options outweigh their risks.

#### **What more needs to be done?**

Clearly more study is required to confirm the association of MS with CCSVI and explain the nature of the relationship. MS organizations such as the National MS Society have announced funding programs to help support work in this area, and grass-roots efforts are also underway to raise money for this research. Other loose threads, such as how CCSVI relates to MS risk factors such as genes, gender, smoking, Epstein-Barr virus, and vitamin D deficiency, need to be investigated as well.

In the meantime, we plan to keep an open mind and welcome whatever evidence is produced by well-designed and well-executed studies. There have certainly been times where initial enthusiasm over a new breakthrough is dampened by later evidence. Then again, there have also been cases where conventional wisdom was completely overturned, leading to new ways of understanding and treating a disease. We are looking forward to seeing what new evidence is produced and how our organization might best contribute in this field as further progress is made.

#### **References:**

- “Chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency in patients with multiple sclerosis.” Zamboni P, et al. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2009 Apr;80(4):392-9.
- “A prospective open-label study of endovascular treatment of chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency.” Zamboni P, et al. *Vasc Surg*. 2009 Dec;50(6):1348-58.

## **VOLUNTEERS (cont.)**

### **SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**

Dave Baker  
Peter Schmidt

### **WELLNESS RESOLUTION 2010**

Ama Allara  
Cher Kore  
Jania Villon  
Jason Clairday  
Joan Pasquale  
Larry Manning

### **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP**

Carson Lappetito  
Jaclyn Mosher  
Maggie Phelan  
Theresa Grenier  
Vassar Pierce

## **GOODS & SERVICES**

### **CONTRIBUTED GOODS & SERVICES**

Afkara/M.Santana  
Akira  
Bar Method  
Barefoot Wine  
Benefit Cosmetics  
Bloomingdales  
Boots International  
Busy BEA Shoes  
Cabot Creamery  
Caribou Coffee  
CD Peacock  
Center for Aesthetic Surgery  
Chad Randolph  
Chicago Fire Department  
Ciao Bella  
City Soles  
Clockwork Design Group, inc  
Converse  
Creativity United  
Dana Hotel and Spa  
Designer Shoe Outlet  
Dr. Laurie Casas  
Dr. Mary Olszewski  
Elements  
Halo for Men  
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza  
Hyatt Regency  
Jackie Nakumura  
Julyn Panacola  
Kejor, Inc.  
L.A. Tan  
Leonard, Mulherin & Greene, P.C.  
Lifetime Fitness  
Linda Pritcher  
L'Oreal USA Designer Fragrance  
MADART  
Mana Food Bar  
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council  
Maybelline  
Meltem Tunar Studio of Arts  
Mia Bossi  
Michael Tsuk  
Morkes Chocolates  
Neiman Marcus  
Nicole Jones  
Nina Shoes  
Peroni  
Red Bliss Bling  
Sandra Aussem  
Sandy Lyons  
Shoebuy  
Silver Lake Country Club  
Socks Appeal  
Stacy Reiss  
Stuart Weitzman  
The Capital Grille  
The Revelettes  
Yavavroom  
You by Crocs

## Do You Have Committee Commitment Phobia?

Do you have a fear of joining volunteer event committees because you don't know if you'll have enough time or the right skills? Don't worry! Whether you have one hour or one hundred hours to assist with an event, you'll be a huge help to Accelerated Cure Project. While we're looking to recruit supporters to be on sub-committees and play lead roles, we're also in need of volunteers to participate in quick brainstorming sessions, tackle one-time tasks, or help with day-of-event roles. If you have the motivation to cure MS, then you have the right skill set. We will be hosting 7 signature events this year to greatly increase our revenue, but we can't do it without you! Volunteering with Accelerated Cure Project is rewarding, educational, and fun, not to mention, a great way to network and gain professional experience. If you are interested in helping us accelerate the cure for MS, please visit the Volunteer section of our website to find out more! <http://www.acceleratedcure.org/affiliates/index.php>

### Recent Events

Detailed information about all of our recent and upcoming events can be found on our web site at <http://www.acceleratedcure.org/events>

**November 20:** Chicago's inaugural Hello Stiletto "Shoe Ball" was a great success, as footwear fanatics and fashionistas dressed up and enjoyed a glamorous night out in support of Accelerated Cure Project. Special thanks to lead volunteer Sandra Aussem and her event committee for their hard work in expanding this exciting event to a new city!



Chicago "Shoe Ball" committee members Bridget Carroll and Alicia Saxton

**November 22:** Congratulations to Mark Stotz, Jeff and Michelle Papineau, and their dedicated committee for organizing the rugged, yet fun, Accelerated Cure Project Cyclocross Race in Easthampton, MA. The event series introduced our organization to a multitude of new sponsors and cyclists!

**December 10:** Proving that the "Hello Stiletto" fun is not just confined to Boston and Chicago, Amanda Viciano and other local shoe-ficionados flashed their favorite footwear at The Grape in downtown Atlanta. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and The Grape's world-class wine selection in honor of Accelerated Cure Project. Don't miss out on the fun and mark your calendars now for our Atlanta Shoe Ball on August 7th!

**January 16:** Thanks to Cher Kore, Ama Allara and friends who organized the 3rd Annual Wellness Resolution event in Allston, MA. Attendees enjoyed sample exercise classes, massages, posture analysis, live entertainment, and free food and drink. Stay tuned for next year's event so you can start your year off on the right foot!

## Campaign Update

By Erin Fitzgerald

The historic success of our Repository is apparent. In just three years, we have enrolled approximately 2,000 participants and have supplied samples and data to over 30 research projects, but without continued growth this resource cannot truly achieve its potential. Continued growth of the repository goes hand in hand with the growth of our financial support. To jumpstart this necessary financial growth, Accelerated Cure Project launched its "Opening Doors to Cure MS" comprehensive fundraising campaign in July 2009. The purpose of the campaign is to raise a minimum of \$10 million to fund our mission and accomplish the following goals in the next 3-5 years:

- Continue to expand our Repository in terms of its number of subjects and collection sites
- Increase the number of studies that we are supporting through samples and data
- Target specific types of research that we identify as having particularly high potential to lead to breakthroughs in treating, diagnosing, and curing MS
- Extract new findings from our integrated repository database

We are proud to report that since the launch of the campaign we have raised \$5 million to support these efforts.

A key contribution to the campaign's success came in July through the generous \$3 million pledge made by Water Cove Charitable Foundation. This pledge will greatly support Accelerated Cure Project's mission to cure MS by determining its causes. The Foundation also hopes to inspire other major contributors to make multi-year pledges. Multi-year pledges are extremely helpful; they allow us to better plan and budget for future programs and expenses.

While large gifts are greatly appreciated and needed to support Accelerated Cure Project's efforts, everyone is able to support the campaign no matter the gift size. Whether you attend one of our signature events, host or participate in a volunteer event, do a letter writing campaign, or make a personal contribution of any size, all donations during the campaign will support our minimum goal of \$10 million.

For the full list of campaign participants please see the "Campaign Donor Recognition" article on page 7 of this newsletter.

If you want to learn more about how you can support the campaign, please contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:erin@acceleratedcure.org) or 781-487-0013.

## Campaign Donor Recognition

# Opening Doors to cure MS

### Legacy Leadership Circle \$3,000,000+

Water Cove Charitable Foundation

### Ambassador's Circle \$250,000+

Benificus Foundation  
Charles & Marilyn Stuckey  
Return Path

### Director's Circle \$100,000+

Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation  
Michael & Lori Yashko  
Paul & Joanne Egerman Family  
Charitable Foundation

### Patron's Circle \$50,000+

Biogen Idec  
EMD Serono  
The Kaufer Family

### Benefactor's Circle \$25,000+

Andrew & Karen Hirshberg  
Clockwork Design Group, inc  
The Kanner/Baker Family  
Michael & Roxanne Zak

### Diamond Circle \$10,000+

Craig & Debbie Mann  
David & Sharyn Pulsifer  
The Deepika & Rajiv Laroia Fund  
Genentech/Biogen  
Izhar Armony & Noamit Armony-Erel  
Peter & Deborah Wexler  
Transverse Myelitis Association  
Tyler Hamilton

### Sapphire Circle \$5,000+

Al & Alma Brosio Family Fund at the  
San Diego Foundation  
Arlene J. Harris  
Brad & Jennifer Parker  
The Brock Family  
Carolyn Cronin  
Deutsche Bank  
DioGenix, Inc.  
Frederic J. Marx  
Goodman-Lipman Family Foundation  
Interactive Data Corporation  
The Pappas Family  
Piper McNealy  
Raymond & Virginia Dolan  
Rich & Cindy Cummings

Includes gifts pledged as of 1/31/2010

## Upcoming Events

More information can be found at  
<http://www.acceleratedcure.org/events/calendar.php>

**April 19, Boston, MA:** Our 2010 Boston Marathon Team has been working hard to fundraise and train! We have 11 dedicated runners this year — visit the link above to read about them and support their efforts to raise money for Accelerated Cure Project. Come join our cheering section at Mile 20 during the race.

**April 23, Boston, MA:** Join your fellow fashion lovers and footwear fanatics at the 3rd Annual Hello Stiletto "Shoe Ball" at the Hyatt Regency featuring a black tie evening of music, dancing, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and shoe-gazing; not to mention, a chance to compete for title of "Best-in-Shoe" in a pink carpet walk-off! Check our events page for RSVP and ticket info.

**April 24, Somerville, MA:** Get ready for The Medeiros Family 8th Annual Sports Scholarship and Multiple Sclerosis Research Fundraiser Party in loving memory of Edmund Medeiros. The drawing and silent auction will feature items from local restaurants, sporting stores and more. Wear your dancing shoes!

**May 8, Cincinnati, OH:** Our energetic Cincinnati volunteers are once again organizing their annual Walk to Accelerate the Cure! Come walk (or run) with us at Lunken Playfield to pull together and raise money for the fight against Multiple Sclerosis! Visit the link above to donate!

**August 7, Atlanta, GA:** Join us as we host our first Atlanta "Shoe Ball" in partnership with Hello Stiletto at the Hyatt Regency. The night will feature dancing, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a silent auction and of course, shoes! Sport your best footwear to benefit Accelerated Cure Project!

**September 13-19, New England:** Tyler Hamilton and Accelerated Cure Project are teaming up again for MS Global 2010! A team of riders will embark on a multi-day cycling event in scenic New England with US Pro Cycling Champion and Olympic gold medalist, Tyler Hamilton, as they raise funds to fight MS. Interested riders should email [pete@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:pete@acceleratedcure.org) for more info!

**September, 11 Boston, MA:** Get ready for our 9th Annual Scavenger Hunt! This year we will be moving the Hunt into downtown Boston. Wander the Freedom Trail and storm the Boston Common as you try to outsmart your friends...all in support of Accelerated Cure Project. Start planning your teams now!

**October 23, Boston, MA:** Join us for our 2nd Annual "Opening Doors" Symposium and Recognition Dinner. Along with a dazzling gala including a VIP reception, dinner, auctions and live entertainment, this event will highlight the accomplishments of our key supporters. Last year's inaugural event was our most successful fundraiser to-date with 200 attendees helping us raise over \$200,000!

**October 24, Arlington, MA:** If you're a music lover, then be sure to mark your calendar for our 8th annual Music to Cure MS fall concert! One of our longest-running volunteer events will showcase a number of local singers and artists as they raise money for Accelerated Cure Project!

**October 31, Washington, DC:** We have received charity numbers for the 35th Marine Corps Marathon. For your chance to run one of the most beautiful (and flattest) marathons in the country while raising funds for a great cause, email [pete@acceleratecure.org](mailto:pete@acceleratecure.org)!

**November 19, Chicago, IL:** Join us for the 2nd Annual Hello Stiletto "Shoe Ball" at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza, a fabulous evening of footwear, fashion, and fun, for women and men, to benefit Accelerated Cure Project!



Nonprofit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #54601  
Boston, MA  
Prsrt Std

300 Fifth Ave.  
Waltham, MA 02451

Tel: 781-487-0008  
Fax: 781-487-0009

[www.acceleratedcure.org](http://www.acceleratedcure.org)  
[newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org)

Have you moved?  
Changed your email  
address? Let us know!  
Send changes in  
contact information to  
[newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org)  
or give us a call at  
781-487-0008.

### Change Service Requested

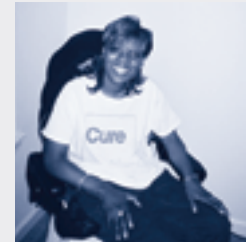
## Accelerated Cure Project T-Shirt Pictures



Bob in Northborough



Cooper with Hindi pilgrim  
on gondola after visit to  
temple in Nepal



Deborah in Georgia

### ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic demyelinating disorder of the central nervous system that often results in severe disability including the inability to walk, blindness, cognitive dysfunction, extreme fatigue and other serious effects. MS affects over 400,000 people in the US and 2 million individuals worldwide. The disorder occurs twice as often in women as in men. The cause is not known and there is no known cure.

**Subscribe to This Newsletter:** Call 781-487-0008, email [newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org) or go to [www.acceleratedcure.org](http://www.acceleratedcure.org) and click on "Sign Up." You may also **unsubscribe** using this contact information.

**Subscribe to Our Electronic Mailing Lists:**  
Go to [www.acceleratedcure.org](http://www.acceleratedcure.org) and click the "Sign Up" box at the top of the page.

### Have you moved? Changed your email address?

Let us know! Send changes in contact information to [newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:newsletter10@acceleratedcure.org) or call 781-487-0008.

### ACCELERATED CURE PROJECT UPDATE VOL. 9 – SPRING 2010

*Newsletter Design & Layout contributed by:*  
Clockwork Design Group, inc ([www.cdgi.com](http://www.cdgi.com))

*Printing Services contributed by:*  
Red Spot Printing ([www.redspotprinting.com](http://www.redspotprinting.com))

*Mailing House Services contributed by:*  
Compu-Mail ([www.compu-mail.com](http://www.compu-mail.com))

*Editor-in-Chief:* Kristin O'Donnell

*Contributing Writers:* Jeremy Wright and Christine Remediakis

This newsletter is available online at [www.acceleratedcure.org](http://www.acceleratedcure.org) in the "Downloads" section.