



Multiple Sclerosis and the Accelerated Cure Project

The Challenge

1) *What is Multiple Sclerosis (MS)?*

Multiple Sclerosis, or MS, is a chronic demyelinating disorder of the central nervous system that often results in severe disability including the inability to walk, impaired vision, cognitive dysfunction, bladder and bowel problems, extreme fatigue and other serious symptoms.

2) *How many people are affected by MS?*

More than 2 million people worldwide and 400,000 in the US have been diagnosed with the disorder.

3) *What causes MS?*

To this point, the scientific and medical communities have not been able to identify the exact cause. Complex factors working together such as genetics, pathogens, nutrition, toxic agents, and trauma are thought to play pivotal roles.

4) *Is there a cure for MS?*

There is no known cure for the disease and available treatments are modestly effective at best.

5) *What is preventing a cure from being found?*

Finding a cure has been hampered by the lack of a coordinated drive to determine the cause. Historically, there has been little coordination of individual scientific effort aimed specifically at determining the cause of, or cure for MS. In addition, there has been no single collection of samples and data for study across different disciplines. The intent of the Accelerated Cure Project is to change both realities.

Solving the Problem

1) *What is the Accelerated Cure Project for MS?*

Accelerated Cure Project is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to curing MS by determining its causes.

2) How will the organization achieve its goal?

The Accelerated Cure Project was founded with the belief that organizing the research process and encouraging collaboration between research organizations and clinicians will hasten the cure effort.

3) What specific strategies are being employed?

Accelerated Cure Project has developed a Cure Map to establish and document what is known and not known about the causes of MS. From this Cure Map, the organization will facilitate research most likely to reveal the causes of MS in the shortest period of time through the establishment of a large-scale, multidisciplinary MS Repository.

4) What information does the Cure Map contain?

The Cure Map analyzes each major known disease cause such as genetics, pathogens, nutrition, toxic agents and trauma, individually and in conjunction with each other, to determine what is known and unknown about their involvement in MS. Based on this information, decisions are made about required steps to fill in the knowledge gaps.

5) What is the role of the MS Repository?

The MS Repository will provide large numbers of biological samples and data from people with and without MS. These samples will allow analysis of the probable causes of the disorder from multiple perspectives. The contents of the repository will be made available to individual scientists seeking the cause and ultimate cure of this disorder. The goal is to multiply the value of research results through an independent network of sharing.

6) How can I help?

Get involved. Play a role in the Accelerated Cure Project's revolutionary effort to cure MS. Volunteer your time, make a contribution or sign up for the mailing list. Visit www.acceleratedcure.org or contact the organization directly at info@acceleratedcure.org. You can make a difference.