



Multiple Sclerosis and the Accelerated Cure Project Fact Sheet

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.
- More than 2 million people worldwide and 400,000 in the US have been diagnosed with the disorder.
- 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.
- There is no known cure for the disease and available treatments are modestly effective at best.
- 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.

What is the Accelerated Cure Project for MS?

- Accelerated Cure Project is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to curing MS by determining its causes.
- Accelerated Cure Project was founded with the belief that organizing the research process and encouraging the collaboration between research organizations and clinicians will hasten the cure effort.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.