



A Look Forward: What to Expect from ACP in 2016

Our future plans for the four integrated programs are equally ambitious. In 2016, you can anticipate that:

- The [iConquerMS™](#) network of people with MS will grow in size and influence. MS researchers around the globe can access the network and involve the iConquerMS™ community in crafting both the research questions (and answers) and the research methodologies. The progress of the resulting studies—both positive and negative—will be communicated back to members of the network in almost real time, thereby increasing their knowledge of, and engagement in, MS research. Most importantly, the network will begin to work on laying out the “Path to Impact,” our shorthand term for how it will ensure that robust research results actually will have a meaningful impact on the care and treatment of people with MS.
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- The image shows a perspective view of a paved road stretching towards a horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The year "2016" is painted in large white letters on the asphalt in the foreground.
- The [Multiple Sclerosis Discovery Forum](#) will continue to find and tell the research stories that matter to scientists, clinical researchers, patients, and other stakeholders. It will strive to optimize and advocate for increased communication amongst MS researchers around the globe. As the ACP platform to create content, we will be developing new ways to meet the information needs of the iConquerMS community. For 2016, we will continue coverage of research on topics such as progressive MS and new therapies. We anticipate initiating comprehensive coverage of research on rehabilitation, wellness, and complementary and alternative medicines. And, we are planning exciting new podcasts and data visualizations.
 - The sponsorship of our longitudinal **OPT-UP** clinical research study will grow and diversify, as we continue to present opportunities to potential private and public sponsors. Our goal is to launch patient enrollment in this study in the first half of 2016.

- The **Repository** will continue to enable MS research to advance around the globe. Each study enriches the available data as researchers return new findings to the Repository. Meanwhile, we will organize and maximize the value of this huge data trove — a trillion or more data points— returned by researchers to the Repository over the past decade. Through internal activities and external collaborations, in 2016 we will commence the analysis of the combined datasets that have been contributed by dozens of researchers. The data are linked together through the anonymous identifiers for each of the people who gave samples and data to this unique resource for MS research. Such extensive combined datasets are unavailable anywhere else for MS research. They are ripe for Big Data Analysis. Our founder's vision is being realized.