First Progressive MS Day Recognized Across the United States

The Accelerated Cure Project is pleased to participate in the first Progressive MS Day, being observed on March 28, 2018. In partnership with the multiple sclerosis (MS) community and a number of state governments across the country, Progressive MS Day shows support, offers education, and calls for more research to advance care and reduce disability for those living with the most debilitating forms of the disease.

Wondering how you can participate? The MS community is invited to join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn using the official hashtag: #ProgressiveMSDay. All are invited to highlight resources, programs and services for those living with progressive forms of MS, as well as share their stories of perseverance and hope. Visit Gene.com to learn more about featured patients. In addition, show your support with a custom Facebook profile frame for the day.

Progressive forms of MS are characterized by a sustained build-up of symptoms with an insidious increase in disability. With Primary Progressive MS (PPMS) in particular, disability accumulates twice as fast as in those with Relapsing Remitting MS (RRMS). This means
that people with PPMS experience more problems with walking, more difficulty remaining in the workforce, and require more assistance with everyday activities.\textsuperscript{2} Approximately 400,000 people in the U.S are living with MS.\textsuperscript{3} Up to 15 percent are diagnosed with PPMS, and the majority of those diagnosed with RRMS will transition to a progressive form later in life.\textsuperscript{4}

Progressive forms of MS remain frustratingly difficult to treat, due to a history of unsuccessful clinical trials and limited understanding of why progression occurs. While more than a dozen medicines for RRMS have been approved since the 1990s, there is one FDA-approved treatment for PPMS. More research and a deeper understanding of the biology driving this condition are needed.

Groups recognizing Progressive MS Day include Genentech, as well as several national MS patient advocacy organizations and MS centers. Governments around the country will also join together to formally proclaim March 28th as Progressive MS Day; these states include California, Georgia, Michigan and Colorado.

\textsuperscript{1} Primary Progressive MS (PPMS). National Multiple Sclerosis Society. www.nationalmssociety.org/What-is-MS/Types-of-MS/Primary-progressive-MS. Accessed December 2017.