

# Accelerated Cure Project for MS

## November 2018



*Accelerating research towards a cure for multiple sclerosis*

## Joining Forces in the Fight for a Cure

The [National MS Society](#) (the Society) is an organization whose vision is a world free of MS. The Society mobilizes people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. To fulfill this mission, the Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move their lives forward.



The Accelerated Cure Project (ACP) is an organization focused on accelerating research efforts to improve diagnosis, optimize treatment and ultimately cure MS. A core tenet in ACP's mission is the belief that research is the only way to greatly improve the outlook and quality of life for people with MS. To this end, the organization promotes scientific collaboration and accelerates research by rapidly and cost-effectively providing researchers with data and samples they need to explore novel research ideas. As discussed in our [June 2017 newsletter](#), ACP's people-powered research network, [iConquerMS™](#) is a large and growing cohort for data-driven research into topics of interest for people living with MS. With more than 4,700 members, this robust network enables individuals affected by MS to participate in research in both common and novel ways. Participants may contribute their personal health data for research, join clinical studies, and engage with researchers to provide input into research study design. Members can also suggest topics of interest, helping to directly shape research and what is studied about living with MS.

ACP recently announced a powerful collaboration with the Society to facilitate their common goals. The two organizations will work together to speed the pace of research for better treatments and a cure for MS. Through this collaboration, the Society will partner with ACP to leverage the iConquerMS network to drive engagement of people

with MS in the design, conduct and impact of MS research, as well as increase input and involvement from clinicians, researchers, and others affected by MS.

## iConquerMS

Through this collaboration, the Society will have access to the iConquerMS platform, data, and participant input for its research activities, such as policy surveys, quality of life questionnaires, data analyses, and other activities conducted by the Society to support its goal of delivering breakthroughs to a cure. The Society will provide financial and in-kind support for the initiative, including promoting and recruiting for iConquerMS research opportunities and sharing questions and topics for research among Society support groups and membership. ACP will continue its efforts to increase enrollment in the iConquerMS network, and contribute this platform to enable people with MS to live their best lives, and advance cures for MS.

The collaboration between the Society and ACP holds great potential for speeding progress toward better MS treatments and, ultimately, a cure. From the patient perspective, Laura Kolaczowski (Lead Patient Representative and Co-Principal Investigator of iConquerMS) shares, “We look forward to working with the Society to advance our shared goal: increasing the voice of people affected by MS in the research that impacts us. By growing the diverse community of people affected by MS who are contributing to people-powered research, we can expand and deepen what is studied and understood about MS, driving meaningful progress for people living with it each day.”

The leadership on both sides of this collaboration agrees on the impact it will have on MS research. According to Bruce Bebo, Ph.D., the Society’s Executive Vice President of Research, “We believe that research, and specifically research that keeps those living with MS at its center, is critical to reaching our bold vision of a world free of MS. We look forward to collaborating further with ACP and all that we can achieve together in supporting and advancing people-powered research in MS.” In Robert McBurney’s words (President and CEO of ACP and Co-Principal Investigator for iConquerMS), “The National MS Society serves a powerful community of people with MS, their care partners, loved ones, family and friends, as well as leading clinicians and researchers across the country. We are excited to expand on our existing relationship with the Society through this effort to increase the power of our shared communities in the fight against MS.”

