iConquerMS™ Spotlight – REAL MS

In the summer of 2016, the iConquerMS initiative launched REAL MS™ (Research Engagement About Life with MS), a longitudinal study of MS. REAL MS is modeled after the Framingham Heart Study, which has had a profound impact on our understanding of the causes of heart disease, as well as how to treat and prevent it. REAL MS participants complete detailed questionnaires online twice each year on a variety of subjects, including health history, diet, exercise and their experience with MS. This month, a sixth round of REAL MS surveys were released through the iConquerMS portal. The information collected through these surveys will play a pivotal role in helping scientists and clinicians gain a better understanding of the health and quality of life over time for people with MS. According to Laura Kolaczkowski, lead patient representative for iConquerMS, “REAL MS is the first time that the participants are shaping the research, and we may even unlock the answers to a cure. The power of so many of us coming together to share our experiences with MS in a way that can be measured and used by researchers can’t be overstated.” Based on the premise that “Your Health Data Has Power,” this study is just one of the many ways iConquerMS is facilitating and accelerating research on topics of importance to people affected by MS. If you are not already a member, please consider joining iConquerMS. Your voice matters! Already a member? Please log in to your account and complete your open surveys!