

The Disease



- MS is a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system with no known cause or cure
- MS damages tissue surrounding nerves called myelin, short-circuiting the nervous system. When myelin is damaged, the ability of the nerves to send messages to and from the brain is disrupted
- There is a wide range of MS symptoms, including tingling, numbness, tremors, loss of vision, cognitive issues and more

The Numbers



- Approximately 2.1 million people worldwide have been diagnosed with MS
- The Greater Delaware Valley chapter serves more than 14,000 people with MS
- Up to four times as many women have MS as men and most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50
- Lifetime costs of living with MS are nearly \$3 million for medications and other costs

The Treatments



- There are ten FDA-approved treatments, but they only slow disease progression and do not work for everyone
- There are no FDA-approved treatments for primary progressive MS
- Until Gilenya, the first oral therapy, was approved by the FDA in 2010, all MS therapies required injections or infusions
- Also in 2010, regulators approved the first treatments for symptoms of MS, including Ampyra which improves walking ability

The Research



- Since 1946, the Society has invested more than \$760 million in research and is the leading private funder of MS research in the world
- Last year, the Society committed more than \$40 million to 325 research projects taking place in 20 countries
- The Society's NOW: No Opportunity Wasted fundraising campaign aims to stop the disease in its tracks, restore function that has been lost and end MS forever
- Locally, the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter is the sole funder of a clinical trial studying vitamin D as a treatment for people living with MS

The National MS Society

- The National MS Society's mission is to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS
- The Society works at the federal, state and local levels to enact legislative and policy changes that positively impact the lives of people living with MS
- The Greater Delaware Valley Chapter serves 18 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley and South Jersey
- We are committed to helping as many people as possible overcome the challenges of MS by providing:
 - Emergency financial services
 - Home care
 - Care management
 - Physical/occupational therapy
 - Health insurance advocacy
 - Caregiver respite
 - Self-help groups
 - Counseling
 - Employment services
 - Education, social and family support programs
 - And much more