

Defeat MSA Alliance (USA)
& MSA United Research Consortium

Many Hearts, One Hope



Show Your Stripes

February 28 is Rare Disease Day, a global movement to raise awareness for rare conditions like Multiple System Atrophy (MSA).

MSA is rare — but the impact on families is profound.

On Rare Disease Day, we invite you to:

- Show your stripes
- Post one fact about MSA
- Use the hashtags *#RareDiseaseDay #ShowYourStripes #DefeatMSA*
- Tag Defeat MSA Alliance
- Invite others to learn and engage

Visibility drives understanding. Understanding drives action.

Show your Stripes

MARCH IS MSA AWARENESS MONTH

Move for MSA



March is about turning awareness into action.

This year, we're launching **Move for MSA** — a month-long challenge built around four simple themes:

Walk. Write. Talk. Help.

Each week focuses on one intentional action that reflects how MSA affects the body — and how we can respond with strength, connection, and support.

Read the full Move for MSA toolkit

TRIBUTE



In Memoriam: Reverend Jesse Jackson

With heavy hearts and deep gratitude, we remember the life of *Reverend Jesse Jackson*.

Rev. Jackson passed away from progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), an atypical Parkinsonian disorder closely related to MSA, sharing many overlapping features.

Read Our Tribute





Dr. Peter Barbuti

Director of Research (Interim)

Strong research requires strong leadership.

We are excited to announce that Dr. Peter Barbuti has joined Defeat MSA Alliance (USA) and the MSA United Research Consortium as Interim Director of Research.

We recently sat down with Dr. Barbuti to discuss the evolving landscape of MSA research and what lies ahead.

With more than 15 years of experience studying alpha-synuclein — the key protein involved in MSA — Dr. Barbuti shares insight into misdiagnosis challenges, biomarker development, clinical trial progress, and why translational research must remain a priority.

> *"Standing still isn't an option. Our goal is simple: the right diagnosis, the right treatment, at the right time."*

Read the full interview to learn how global collaboration and focused strategy are shaping the next phase of MSA research.

Read the Full Interview

Recruiting Clinical Trials:

The MSA Pipeline: Currently Recruiting

Participating in research is one of the most direct ways to accelerate progress.

We continue connecting patients and families with active research opportunities worldwide, including studies currently recruiting now.

View Recruiting Trials



Houston Recap: Movement Disorder Society – Pan American Section (MDS-PAS)

Defeat MSA Alliance (USA) and the MSA United Research Consortium recently exhibited at the Movement Disorder Society – Pan American Section (MDS-PAS) meeting in Houston. (Feb 13-15)

We connected with leading neurologists, elevated awareness of current MSA research initiatives, and strengthened collaboration opportunities — ensuring MSA remains represented in critical scientific and therapeutic discussions.



Last month, we announced eight 2026 grant awardees. Now, we're sharing more about the scientists behind the work and the research driving progress forward.

Among this year's funded investigators is **Professor Henry Houlden**.



Henry Houlden is Professor of Neurology and Neurogenetics at University College London (UCL), based at Queen Square in London, UK. His work focuses on advancing understanding of complex neurodegenerative disorders through genetics and translational research.

Professor Houlden will lead a study aimed at identifying biomarkers to enable earlier and more accurate diagnosis of Multiple System Atrophy.

As new clinical trials seek to slow disease progression, early and precise diagnosis is more critical than ever. This research represents an important step toward improving patient outcomes and accelerating therapeutic development.

Read the Full Article





The MSA Hub 2.0 provides connection, trusted information, and community engagement for patients, caregivers, and supporters.

If you have not yet joined, we invite you to explore the platform.

Join the MSA Hub 2.0



Looking Ahead:

There are several important events ahead that bring our community together and help drive awareness, engagement, and progress throughout the year, including:

- Rare Disease Day **(February 28th)**
- **MSA Awareness Month (March)**
- Move for MSA Campaign (March)
- **The 7th Annual Virtual Conference (September)**

Defeat MSA Alliance and MSA United Research Consortium will also continue advocating the MSA community at key neurology conferences, including:

- **American Academy of Neurology (AAN) (April 18–22, Chicago) – Exhibitor**
- **Society of Neuroscience (SfN) (Nov 14-18, Washington D.C.)**

We'll be sharing additional details and ways to participate as plans are finalized.

Sustained research progress requires long-term planning.

Through FreeWill, supporters can create a no-cost will and include Defeat MSA Alliance (USA) as a beneficiary — helping ensure research sustainability for years to come.

Learn More

Support the mission in a way that works best for you — from planned giving and legacy funds to stock donations, vehicle donations, memorial contributions, and volunteering your time.

GIVE HELP, GIVE HOPE

Defeat MSA Alliance (USA) in partnership with its affiliates in **MSA United** stand alone as the only MSA charities still operated by volunteers, people personally impacted by MSA. No donor dollars go toward the management salaries of people unconnected with MSA - every contribution advances research, education, support and advocacy.

DONATE NOW

TOLL FREE

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(855 KICK-MSA)

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