

A look back at some highlights from 2022

- The **MS Knowledge Network** helps anyone affected by MS get hands-on guidance in both English and French. Last year, our highly trained MS Navigators responded to **9,146** requests from individuals across the Canada and internationally.
- **58** grants from the **2022-23 Annual Research Competition** were awarded, totalling over **\$4.3 million** to continue the forward momentum of crucial MS research. 11 Discovery Research Grants, 6 Catalyst Research Grants and 41 trainees, including 11 postdoctoral fellowships, 26 doctoral studentships and 4 Master's studentships – a critical talent pool of up-and-coming researchers.
- [Dr. Jennifer Gommerman](#) (University of Toronto) was one of 13 researchers awarded a **\$600,000 USD** grant in partnership with the National MS Society (US) and the MS Society of Canada on 'Generating Knowledge and Tools to Address Compartmentalized Inflammation in MS'. Compartmentalized inflammation is thought to contribute to processes underlying progression in MS. Findings from this study will further our understanding of these underlying processes and will identify new therapeutic targets that could potentially halt progression in MS.
- The [Quality of Life Equipment Program](#), which supports personal independence and contributes to an enhanced quality of life for people living with MS, approved **648** requests totaling **\$436,357** in committed funding. One recent grant recipient wanted us to pass along this message of gratitude:
"This is a wonderful program that has provided for my safety and independence. Thank you."
- Almost **\$1.35M in funding** went towards a new sub-cohort of CanProCo that follows pediatric-onset MS (POMS) participants from the Canadian Pediatric Demyelinating Disease Study (CPDDS) as they become adults to understand MS across the age-span.
- As of December 18, 2022, [Employment Insurance \(EI\) sickness benefits](#) have been permanently extended from **15 to 26 weeks**. This is an incredible achievement and an important step towards enhanced employment security and income support for Canadians living with episodic disabilities like MS.
- A new initiative, led by [Dr. Michelle Ploughman](#) (Memorial University), to support an MS rehabilitation research trials platform (**MScanREHAB**) was established. The proposed platform will bring together leading MS rehabilitation researchers in Canada to test novel approaches, therapies, and technologies to restore function in people living with MS. By working together, the group will be able to efficiently mobilize resources, capitalize on funding opportunities, and move the field of MS rehabilitation forward more quickly.
- The [1:1 Peer Support Program](#) supported **336** people affected by MS by pairing them with a volunteer who has had similar experiences to listen, share and provide support.

We are deeply grateful for your compassion and support of those living with and affected by MS. You make our work possible, it's that simple.

P.S. For more information on 2022 MS research projects made possible because of your support, please visit our [MS Blog](#).

P.P.S. As a valued member of our MS community, we wanted to inform you of the amalgamation of the MS Society of Canada and the MS Scientific Research Foundation. **As of January 1, 2023, our organization name is now MS Canada.** With your support, MS Canada will continue to fulfill the mission of the Society and the Foundation and will build upon the 75 years of commitment to the MS community. This new identity will help us serve the MS community with a unified voice and vision to a world free of MS.