



# What do we do?

## More than 100,000 people in the UK have MS. It's a condition that affects the brain and spinal cord.

In MS, the myelin coating that protects nerves is damaged causing a range of symptoms. Symptoms can vary greatly from blurred vision to problems with movement, thinking and emotions, depending which part of the central nervous system has been affected. That's why MS is different for everyone.

### What does the MS Society do?

Our community is here for everyone living with MS – to provide practical help today, and hope for a cure tomorrow. We play a leading role in research and we fight for better treatment and care. Our resources are precious so we use them where we can make the most impact for everyone with MS.

### Life changing treatments – now and in the future

Thanks in part to our Treat Me Right campaign more people than ever before are using a disease modifying therapy (DMT) for their relapsing MS. In 2013 40% of those who could benefit from DMTs were taking them, by 2016 this had risen to 56%. We hope that soon this figure will exceed 70%.

We are particularly excited to be co-funding the final phase of a clinical research trial to test if Simvastatin can help people with secondary progressive MS. If successful, this could be among the first treatments licensed for this type of MS. We also continue to work with our supporter community; encouraging NICE to improve access to Ocrelizumab – the first licensed treatment available for people with primary progressive MS.

### Support and friendship

We have over 270 volunteer-run groups providing support, friendships, and services to more than 13,000 people affected across the UK.

### Our MS Helpline

We're at the end of the phone. Our MS Helpline team answers more than 16,000 enquiries each year from people living with or affected by MS.

### Fighting to make welfare make sense

Our MS Enough campaign resulted in 23,000 people signing our petition calling for fairer treatment when applying for disability benefits. The government finally announced that those with severe, life-long conditions such as MS would no longer face reassessments for Employment and Support Allowance.

More recently our #ScrapPIP20m campaign received the greatest support in our campaign history. Over 36,000 people joined us to demand that the government abandons the 20m walking rule which is used to determine a person's mobility needs.

### With these levels of support who knows what else we can achieve together?

"We have the genuine potential to stop MS in its tracks through our work" – Dr Sorrel Bickley, our Head of Biomedical Research

### What your donation means for the MS community

Donations from people like you across the UK enable us to provide information, support and services for people living with MS and fund millions in research each year. Your support will help us to be there for those who need it, now and in the future.

Find out more about MS and our work here [mssociety.org.uk](http://mssociety.org.uk)

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