



### **MARCH IS NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS EDUCATION MONTH.**

Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.3 million people worldwide. Currently there is no single test to diagnose MS. Instead, a doctor will use a combination of medical history, various lab tests and a neurological exam to rule out other possible diseases in order to confirm an MS diagnosis. However, a recent study out of Macquarie University in Australia is showing promising work on a biomarker blood test that could help diagnose the subtype of MS a patient has, more quickly

and with greater accuracy. While there is no cure for MS, treatments such as medication and occupational therapy can help manage the complex disease. As each individual patient varies in his or her symptoms, treatment will vary as well.

## **Gateway Area**

The Gateway Area Chapter works to improve the quality of life for people affected by MS in eastern Missouri and southern Illinois and raise funds for critical MS research. Join the movement toward a world free of MS.

### **Events in the Gateway Area You Can Support:**

Paint and Sip with Mommy's Design Farm:  
March 16, 2018, St. Charles, MO  
Challenge Walk MS 2017: June 2, 2018, St. Louis, MO  
Bike MS Gateway Ride 2017: September 8, 2018, Godfrey, IL

See link for more information:

<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/MOS>



Sources:

<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/ILD/About-this-Chapter/News/March-is-National-Multiple-Sclerosis-Awareness-Mon>

<https://www.washingtonparent.com/articles/1703/1703-multiple-sclerosis-education-month.php>