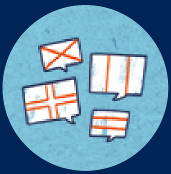
ms international federation

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2024



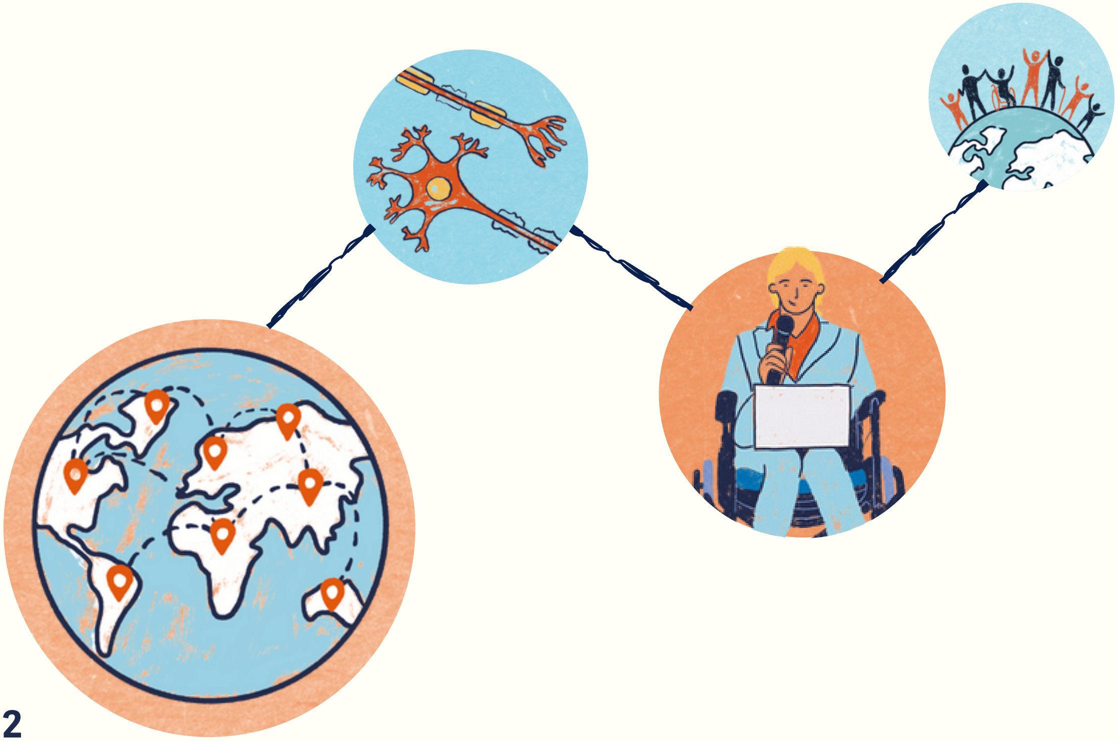
TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER THAN MS

2024 IN REVIEW: A YEAR OF ACTION AT MSIF

As the year draws to a close, MSIF reflects on 2024 and looks ahead to the future.

2024 was the second year of MSIF's global strategy working to bring the world together with urgency to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of everybody affected by MS, and to end MS forever. It's been a year of action - MSIF launched a new World MS Day campaign, awarded regional grants, welcomed member organisations, a new Board of Trustees and more.

Read on as we capture some of the year's highlights across MSIF's strategic aims.



OUR MEMBERS

Argentina
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Iceland
India
Iran
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Latvia
Lebanon
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
North Macedonia
Poland
Portugal
Russia
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Spain
Switzerland
Tunisia
Turkey
UK
Uruguay
USA

AIM 1

Improved scientific understanding to prevent, treat and stop MS

MSIF rallies the global community to advance research into preventing, treating and stopping MS. We work to increase the meaningful participation of people affected by MS throughout the research and development process. Learn more about the international action MSIF has taken with MS organisations this year, to support the MS research environment.

Commitment to a global research strategy

In 2023, MSIF and member organisations from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US), jointly declared their collective commitment to a global research strategy for cures for MS. This is based on the Pathways to Cures Roadmap, focused on three research pathways: (1) stopping the MS disease process, (2) restoring lost function by reversing damage and symptoms, and (3) ending MS through prevention.

This year, a revised Pathways to Cures Roadmap was published. The publication refined research priorities within the three pathways and presented recommendations for accelerating progress. Supporting members also completed and published a landscape analysis of MS research funding and infrastructure.

This landscape analysis highlights the current distribution of MS research investment between topics and begins to suggest where the MS community should focus, to increase potential impact for current and future endeavours.

Alvaro Cobo-Calvo, PhD, neurologist at the MS Centre of Catalonia, and Mar Tintoré, PhD, president of ECTRIMS, authored an editorial highlighting the importance of these papers and global collaboration in MS research. They write:

> *'The two studies highlight the importance of improving coordination in international research for a more efficient distribution of funding to achieve their main objectives. The International Progressive MS Alliance and the Global PROMs Initiative are prime examples of global collaboration in combating MS progression and enhancing the use of patient-reported outcome measures.*
>
> *Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) added disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) for MS to its Essential Medicines List. This significant achievement would not have been possible without a shared agenda and the collaboration of various partners, led by MSIF.'*

International Progressive MS Alliance focuses on new treatments

The International Progressive MS Alliance drives forward scientific progress through its funding schemes. In 2024, the Alliance launched a new funding scheme, requesting proposals for Experimental Medicine Trials that aim to test potential new treatments for progressive MS.

Importantly, this funding scheme emphasises that the perspectives of people affected by progressive MS must be included in the applications, including how people with progressive MS influence trial design and execution.

Three webcasts on progressive MS were organised by managing members of the International Progressive MS Alliance, including MSIF, the MS Society UK, National MS Society in the US, MS Australia, Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla and MS Canada.

The webcasts brought leading researchers together to answer questions from the MS community and explain the latest research advancements in progressive MS. After each webcast, subtitles in French, Spanish, Italian and Arabic were made available by MSIF and our members.

Scientific insight and networking at ECTRIMS 2024

In September, members of the MSIF Secretariat attended the 40th Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS).

During this valuable annual opportunity to connect with the global MS research community, the team met with colleagues from member organisations, our industry partners, as well as researchers and clinicians we work with across our activities.

Many representatives from MSIF member organisations attended the congress both in-person and online. It was encouraging to see increased focus on global issues, with sessions on regional aspects of differential diagnosis, as well as the welcoming of AFRICTRIMS (the regional TRIMS for Africa) to the Congress.

We also supported the ECTRIMS patient community day, an educational opportunity for anybody affected by MS to learn about the latest advancements directly impacting their ongoing care and treatment options.

McDonald Fellowships awarded to researchers in Malawi and Argentina

MSIF awarded the 2024 McDonald Fellowships with our partners ECTRIMS and FRANCESEP. The McDonald Fellowship is a two-year fellowship that enables young researchers from low- and middle-income countries to work in a research institution outside their own country. The fellows learn new skills and techniques, with a view to returning to their own country to apply the techniques learnt.

The MSIF-ECTRIMS McDonald Fellowship was awarded to Dr Yohane Gadama from Malawi.

He will be conducting a project with Professor Franclo Henning at Stellenbosch University in South Africa on 'Impact of HIV infection and treatment on the epidemiology and clinical progression of MS'.

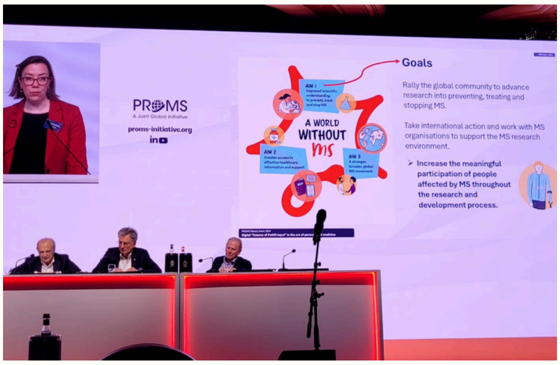
The MSIF-FRANCESEP McDonald Fellowship was awarded to Dr Maria Agustina Piedrabuena from Argentina. She will be conducting her project with Professor Jennifer Graves at the San Diego VA MS Center in the US on 'Investigating biomarkers in aging patients with MS'

Global Patient Reported Outcomes for MS Initiative (PROMS)

The Global Patient Reported Outcomes for MS (PROMS) Initiative is a unique collaboration, aiming to reach consensus on a set of standardised Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) to be used in therapy development and healthcare. It is led and coordinated jointly by MSIF and the European Charcot Foundation, with Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla as the lead agency.

In 2024, members of the initiative have focused on analysing the results of the global survey about the impact of MS symptoms, which reached over 5,000 people in almost 70 countries.

PROMS Annual meeting Baveno



PROMS Annual meeting Baveno

A new task force was established to map the use of PROs across MS registries. These findings will feed into recommendations for PRO measures to be used in research and the clinical setting.

2024 has also had a theme of eHealth for the PROMS initiative, with the analysis of a catalogue of eHealth digital tools for MS, and the development of a global survey to people with MS focused on their use of digital tools to measure key symptoms. Results have been disseminated at the ECTRIMS Congress, in a new publication, and during the PROMS annual meeting.

Collecting new data for the Atlas of MS

Throughout 2024 we worked to update the core epidemiology data for the Atlas of MS, as well as collecting novel data. 80 countries reviewed, amended or confirmed the core data, with another 5 countries providing core data for the first time, further expanding the reach of the Atlas.

Mindful that the McDonald criteria, used for the diagnosis of MS was being updated, we collected new data on the availability and routine use of diagnostic tests, to gain understanding on country preparedness. We also investigated the preferred communication channels for updates to guidelines and criteria. The novel data is more representative of the global MS community than ever, with responses from 122 countries representing 93% of the global population (compared to 2022 where 96 countries participated). More than twice as many low-income and African countries took part in the 2024 data collection than in 2022.

Over the next year, we will be working with global MS experts to analyse this data, which will be disseminated through scientific publications and non-scientific reports, as well as providing the data on the Atlas of MS website.

Also in 2024, the Atlas of MS epidemiology article published in the MS Journal in 2020 received over 500 additional citations, taking the total to approximately 1500.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the next year, we will be working with global MS experts to analyse new Atlas of MS data, which will be disseminated through scientific publications and reports.

At ECTRIMS 2025, MSIF will award the Charcot Award, an award which recognises a lifetime of outstanding research in the field of MS and commitment to the global MS community. We will also continue to partner with ECTRIMS and FRANCESEP to award two new McDonald Fellowships.

The PROMS Initiative will be developing recommendations for PRO's to be used in research and the clinical setting. Whilst the International Progressive MS Alliance will continue to accelerate research into new treatments through funding schemes, as well as updating the global community about the latest research developments through international webcasts.

With our members we will continue to bring experts from across the globe together to increase the potential impact of MS research.

AIM 2 Greater access to effective healthcare, information and support

Improving access to MS healthcare, information and support is a key goal for MSIF and our members across the globe. MSIF brings organisations together to share resources and improve access to clear and trustworthy information. We support national and international advocacy to improve early access to effective, safe and affordable DMTs for people with MS around the world. Together we advocate for improved access to early diagnosis, treatment and care. Learn more about MSIF's work towards this strategic aim this year.

Turning research into practice – access to MS healthcare

MSIF and our members were proud to contribute to the 'Brain Health: Time Matters' report published this year. People affected by MS from Greece, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Austria and South Africa, helped to review the latest evidence on best practice in MS care and shape the recommendations.

Anne Helme, Head of Research and Access at MSIF, was a co-author on the report and spoke at its launch event, and it was also supported by our member, the MS Society UK.

MS Brain Health

Brain health – time matters

2024 Report

OXFORD HEALTH POLICY FORUM

Access to MS treatment

Building on the success of adding MS treatments to the WHO Essential Medicines List in 2023, we are ensuring that all the evidence behind the application is made available through scientific publications, as well as highlighting our overall approach more widely, such as through the ECTRIMS webinar series.

We continued to ensure that the voice of people with MS is central to improving access to MS treatments. Throughout the year, we shared stories about real-life barriers to accessing MS treatments, from people with MS in Morocco, Malaysia, and Argentina.

Improving MS diagnosis

In 2024, MSIF commissioned a feasibility study to analyse where the global movement should focus its activities from 2026 onwards to have an impact on improving MS diagnosis.

To ensure the outputs of the feasibility study will be useful for our members, we established a small steering group with representatives from 5 member organisations. To date we have hosted a workshop on MS diagnosis at our Global Networking Meetings and held discussions with the International Working Group on Access and the International Medical and Scientific Board.

The aim of these consultations was to identify the largest barriers to accessing an early diagnosis of MS, how these barriers vary across countries, and out of many potential solutions, which ones might be most impactful and feasible to implement.

We also collected examples of what member organisations are currently doing to improve access to MS diagnosis, and what 'best practice' looks like. Consultation will continue into 2025, with a report and recommendations to be shared with member organisations and the Board.

2024 was also the first year of the My MS Diagnosis campaign for World MS Day, advocating for early and accurate diagnosis for everyone living with MS by sharing real stories and data. Learn more about the campaign later in this report.

Improving access to clear and trustworthy information

To help ensure that the resources we share across the movement are clear and trustworthy, MSIF outlined a new and more rigorous approach to quality assurance, developing a Quality Assurance Guide for our information work. We began implementing this approach, which will help us to ensure that everything we share, use or adapt is as helpful and relevant as possible for MS organisations and people affected by MS across the globe.

The global movement continued to make resources available in more languages. The booklet 'MS: Yoga and Meditation', originally published by Esclerosis Multiple Argentina in Spanish then translated into English by MSIF, was translated into Hebrew and Russian by the Israel MS Society, and Polish by Polskie Towarzystwo Stwardnienia Rozsianego. Our guide 'Living well with MS as you grow older' was translated into Urdu, making that the 11th language it is available in.

ms international federation

Living well with MS as you grow older

A guide for older people with multiple sclerosis (MS) on managing the condition alongside the effects of age.

This information is also useful for younger people with MS who are thinking ahead as well as carers, family members and friends.

EMA
ESCLEROSIS MULTIPLE ARGENTINA

Esclerosis Múltiple:
Yoga y Meditación
Escrito de Jaclyn Rey

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2025 we will continue to consult the global MS movement on improving MS diagnosis globally, with a report and recommendations to be shared with member organisations and the Board.

New data from the Atlas of MS will also shine a light on the global challenges faced by people trying to access an MS diagnosis, whilst World MS Day continues to campaign for improved MS diagnosis until 2026.

Our regional work in Latin America will begin to focus on challenges around diagnosis in 2025.

Next year we will launch a new resource on Complementary Therapies in MS, which strives to address a significant global information gap and provide clarity on some of the potential harms and benefits of using complementary therapies and wellness practices.

AIM 3

A stronger, broader, global MS movement

Improving access to MS healthcare, information and support is a key goal for MSIF and our members across the globe. MSIF brings organisations together to share resources and improve access to clear and trustworthy information. We support national and international advocacy to improve early access to effective, safe and affordable DMTs for people with MS around the world. Together we advocate for improved access to early diagnosis, treatment and care. Learn more about MSIF's work towards this strategic aim this year.

MSIF welcomes new members

In January, we welcomed two new members: MS Vereniging Nederland (Dutch MS Association) as a Full member and Multiple Sclerosis South Africa (MSSA) as an Associate member. Both organisations aim to improve support, advocacy, and awareness for people with MS in their countries.

As a member, the MSSA has deepened its involvement in our access work and collaborated on World MS Day, featuring a person with MS from South Africa in the My MS Diagnosis animation.

Non Smit, the Director of MSSA shared a few words on their new membership:

> *'The representation of numerous national organizations carries a powerful message – that to end MS, we must unite as one. (MSIF's) leadership and commitment over the years have been truly commendable, inspiring countless individuals, including myself, to keep pushing forward. I am genuinely excited to embark on this journey as MSSA becomes an Associate member of MSIF. Here's to a collaborative and impactful journey ahead.'*

Jan van Amstel, the Dutch MS Association President, has now joined the MSIF Board. He remarks,

> *'We consider it very important to be part of the worldwide international MS community in order to strengthen our efforts to improve the situation of MS patients.*
>
> *We will be the second Dutch member of MSIF and are looking forward to combining our efforts to support MSIF.'*

VERENIGING
ms
NEDERLAND
de stem van mensen met MS

Networking at MSIFs global meetings

In October, MSIF held its annual Hybrid Global Networking Meetings, bringing together 78 participants from 27 countries, both in person in London and online. It was a productive and inspiring week, filled with opportunities to collaborate and share insights from MS organisations worldwide.

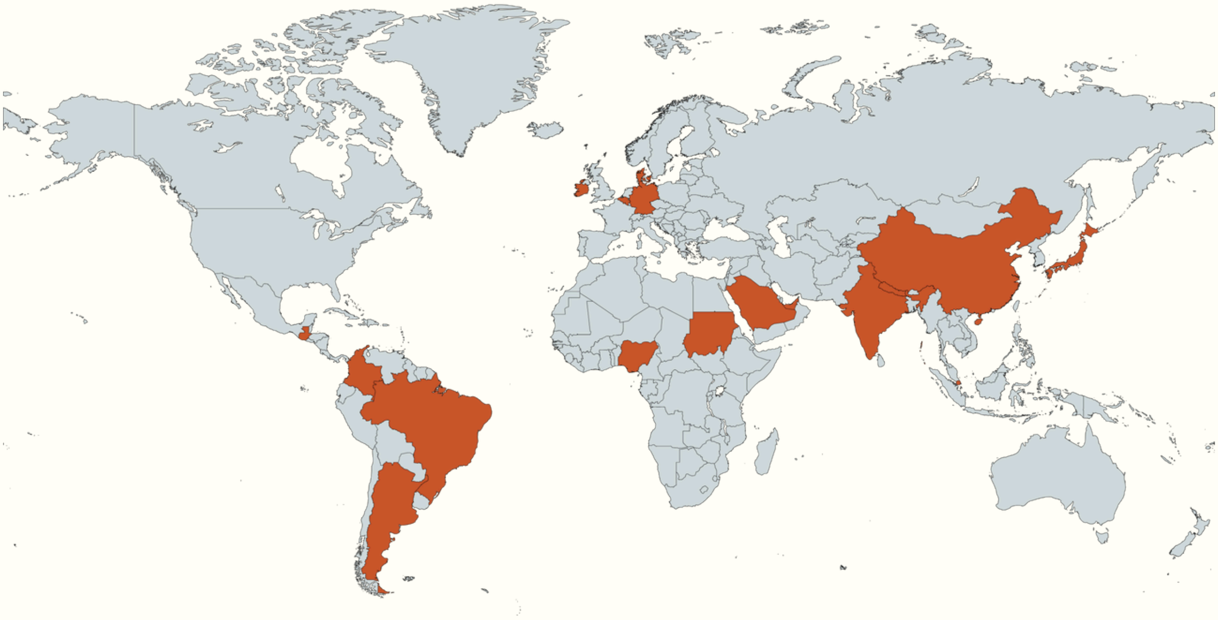
During the meetings, there were presentations from several of our member organisations; the Society of Lebanese Friends of Patients with Multiple Sclerosis (Lebanon), the MS Society UK, the National MS Society (USA).

These meetings also marked a time of change for MSIF, as we welcomed new members to our Board of Trustees and elected a new Chair, Mario Battaglia from Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla, and Vice-Chair, Ana Torredemer from Esclerosis Múltiple España. In his opening remarks, Mario said:

> *'I have been a volunteer in the MS movement for 50 years. I got involved through a friend who had MS, though he is no longer with us. His name wasn't Martin Luther King, but every Sunday, he would call me and say, 'I have a dream. One day, multiple sclerosis will be defeated. Is there any news?'*
>
> *Even today, I believe this remains the core purpose of the movement: to place the word 'end' next to 'multiple sclerosis' all over the world. For this reason, I am honoured to have been elected President of the MS International Federation.'*

Supporting MS organisations across the globe

Throughout the year MSIF collaborated closely with MS organisations across the globe. We participated in member activities, including attending a gala event hosted by the Ligue Nationale Belge de la Sclérose en Plaques (Belgium), presenting on the role of MSIF during MS Ireland's board meeting, giving a speech at the 50th anniversary event of the AMSEL branch of the Deutsche Multiple Sklerose Gesellschaft Bundesverband e.V (Gerrmany),online participation in the 40th anniversary celebrations at Associação Brasileira de Esclerose Múltipla (Brazil), and a message of solidarity for the Japan MS Society's annual seminar.



Countries where MSIF participated in activities or provided ad-hoc support in 2024 - from the MSIF Time Bank

Peer Baneke, MSIF's CEO, continued to participate in the quarterly meetings of Executive Committee of the European MS Platform, in his role as an observer without a vote.

Whilst unable to attend in person, MSIF recorded a presentation on building MS communities for the inaugural KFSH&RC International Neuroimmunology Conference (INIC24) held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Abdelfatah Ibrahim, Head of Communications, Campaigns and Advocacy, attended the Duoshen conference in China. He delivered a talk on how patient organisations support newly diagnosed individuals with MS, sharing examples from the global MS movement. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on MSIF's support for the MS community in China since 2011.

We also assisted MS organisations in a variety of ways; making connections in Nepal, Singapore and Nigeria; linking up our members in Denmark and Japan; taking part in a seminar in Colombia and supporting advocacy efforts in Guatemala and Argentina.

Fundraising opportunities were discussed with India and global campaigning explored with the National MS Society UAE. These examples represent just some of the ways we have worked with our members and other MS organisations to address the variety of challenges that people with MS are facing around the world.

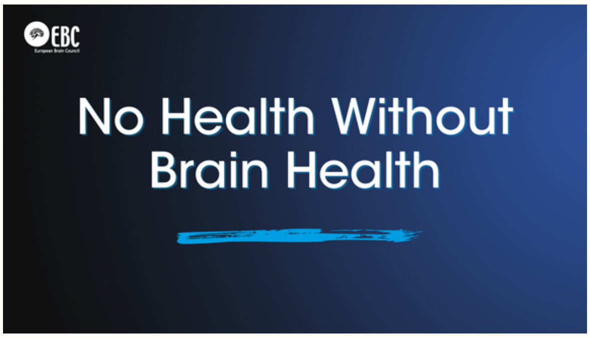
Advancing MS in global health agendas

In 2024, MSIF was actively engaged with strategic partners to strengthen relationships and ensure that MS and neurological conditions are represented in global health agendas.

At the WHO-NGOs partner meeting in September, MSIF showcased how it has communicated and used the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP).

This underlined our commitment to advancing collaborative strategies in the neurological field.

Additionally, MSIF contributed to the development of the WHO Europe's 2024-2029 strategy and action plan for preparedness, response and resilience during health emergencies, by participating in a consultation meeting. We emphasised the need to include neurological conditions in preparedness frameworks, ensuring they receive the attention they deserve. Similarly, our attendance at the virtual WHO Meeting of Non-State Actors on Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use conditions, aimed to align non-state actor activities with WHO's overarching goals.



MSIF joined the European Brain Council's 'No Health Without Brain Health' campaign, endorsing their urgent call to action directed at newly elected Members of the European Parliament. This initiative advocates for the creation of a group on Brain Health, the development of national brain health related plans, and a comprehensive European brain strategy. MSIF also supported the EMSP's 'One Million Minds' campaign and its manifesto, encouraging Members of the European Parliament to pledge their support.

MSIF endorsed the NCD Alliance's 'Time to Lead' campaign ahead of the 4th United Nations High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in 2025, which included a call to governments for more emphasis on neurological diseases.

MSIF discussed participation in the campaign with board members and member CEOs at MSIF's Global Networking Meeting in London in October.

Through these actions, MSIF continues to champion initiatives that prioritise MS and neurological conditions across global platforms.

Small Grants in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA)

Following on from the 2023 MENA Charter, a small grants programme was launched linking to the Charter Statements. A grant was made to the Sudanese MS Association to empower health professionals to better support people with MS in Sudan.

The project is being delivered in Egypt, due to the context in Sudan and the displaced Sudanese MS community living in Egypt, who face extreme healthcare barriers and limited access to medicine.

Around 30 allied healthcare professionals are being trained in understanding MS, to help displaced people with MS from Sudan to access further information, services and support.

The grant is also being used to support the building of a network of Sudanese and Egyptian healthcare professionals and the strengthening of the relationship between the Sudanese MS Association and MS Care Egypt.

By investing in local expertise, MSIF is helping to create a sustainable framework for MS care. It also recognises that the challenges people with MS face often intersect with broader humanitarian issues.

National Advocacy in India

As we approach the end of Year 2 of Phase 2 of MSIF's Organisational Development and Movement Building Project with the MS Society of India (MSSI), MSIF continues to play a vital role in advancing MSSI's advocacy and organisational development efforts.

This year, we supported the launch of the #InsureMyMS campaign, which included an online form which successfully gathered over 8,000 signatures, raising critical awareness about the high cost of medicine in India and advocating for more affordable healthcare.

In addition, we supported MSSI in the development of seven new organisational policies, strengthening their internal systems and operational framework. These efforts have been crucial in enhancing MSSI's ability to function effectively and sustainably to support the national advocacy work in the country.

In March, the Indian Government shared revised disability assessment guidelines for people with MS under the 2016 Rights of Persons with Disability Act. As a result of the advocacy work, funded by MSIF and delivered by MSSI, separate guidelines for MS, the presence of a neurologist on the assessment panel and consideration of the varied disabilities that can result from MS, were included in the disability assessment guidelines for the first time.

As MSSI continues to drive forward change for people with MS, their caregivers and families, MSIF remains committed to helping them achieve their fundraising goals to sustain their vital work. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by MS in India.

Organisational Development in Latin America (LATAM)

To update our understanding of MS organisations needs in LATAM, we carried out an Organisational Needs Assessment Survey. The survey focused on identifying the barriers to diagnosis in the region, understanding the activities organisations provide in response to barriers to access diagnosis, and prioritising the areas of organisational development where support is needed to better carry out the above actions. The results of this survey are being used as the blueprint of our 2024-2026 work plan for the region.

We worked with consultants to continue supporting the LATEM Network in implementing their Communications Strategy and training Network members to sustain it; the training sessions included support in implementing learnings, with training around themes such as; the language of social media, social media strategies, trends and social media and MS organisations work.

In September, the LATEM Network Regional Congress was held online. 56 people from 15 organisations attended. Session themes included information on advocacy, organisational development on corporate fundraising and sessions on research in MS provided by LACTRIMS representatives.

Estudios de investigación actuales

Dra Lorna Galleguillos
Jefe neuroinmunología Clínica Alemana
Neuroinmunología Clínica Dávila
Miembro LACTRIMS

ENCUENTRO
RedLATEM 2024
Edición Online

Dra. Neuróloga
Lorna Galleguillos
LACTRIMS

Estudios de Investigación

Patrocina:

Organisation leaders are now adapting the learnings from the sessions to their national realities.

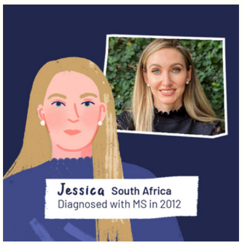
World MS Day 2024

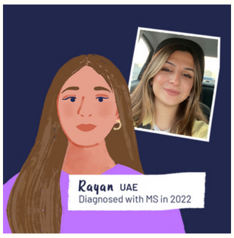
The first year of the My MS Diagnosis campaign was one to remember. 124 countries took part in World MS Day 2024 and there were 6 countries, or territories where World MS Day activity took place for the first time, or the first time in a number of years: Angola, Azerbaijan, Belize, Guernsey, The Republic of Moldova and Vietnam.

We launched a new brand and a new toolkit with graphics, posters, countdowns, a campaign handbook and much more, the toolkit saw fantastic uptake from across the movement. Anjali Vyas, the World MS Day representative at the MS Society of India said:

> *‘The new branding and toolkit were invaluable assets in helping [MSSI] reach a wider audience and raise awareness about the importance of early and accurate MS diagnosis. Having a cohesive brand identity helped create a united front for the campaign, making it feel more powerful and impactful.’*

As part of the campaign, people with MS from across the globe shared personal stories about MS diagnosis. The ‘My MS Diagnosis Animation’ which used real stories to show what it’s like to navigate an MS diagnosis was viewed over 65,000 times.





The campaign was recognised by decision makers across the world including the Puerto Rican House of Representatives and Senate, and Health Ministries in Luxembourg, Syria Paraguay and beyond. The MS movement used its voice across the world to mobilise support and advocate for early, and accurate diagnosis.

LOOKING FORWARD

We look forward to continuing to work closely with MS organisations in 2025. We will continue our regional small grants, which provide MS organisations with the opportunity to increase their skills and knowledge with a 'learning whilst doing' approach. In Latin America, we will work with organisations to address diagnosis challenges that were highlighted in the Organisational Needs Assessment Survey.

2025 also marks the final year of our Organisational Development project with the MS Society of India, we will work closely with MSSI throughout the year to ensure we have met the projects goals.

We will work with MS organisations towards membership, in 2025 we hope to welcome new members to MSIF. We also hope to see a continued high level of attendance at our Annual Global Networking Meetings, providing a unique opportunity for all MSIF's members and people in the global MSIF network to gather, connect and share experience and learnings.

For the second year of the My MS Diagnosis campaign, we will be launching brand new tools and resources for MS organisations and people affected by MS, including supporter favourites like the World MS Day poster maker, as well as new tools including resources for the newly diagnosed. We are excited to see the momentum build in the second year of the campaign and continue advocating for meaningful change to MS diagnosis until last year of the campaign in 2026.

RAISING VITAL FUNDS TO BRING US CLOSER TO OUR VISION OF A WORLD WITHOUT MS

Cycle For MS
Conquer the Tour

THE MAY 50K

Each year, MSIF hosts two fundraising events which enable us to collaborate with our members across the globe to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of everybody affected by MS.

The May 50K

The May 50K 2024 was a huge success with four member organisations taking part in the campaign: MS Society UK, MS Ireland, Stitchting MS Research (Netherlands), Deutsche Multiple Sklerose Gesellschaft Bundesverband (Germany). Together with our participating members we raised a total of £878000 which will go towards both national projects in participating countries and global initiatives supported by MSIF. The challenge saw substantial participation from an amazing 3648 individuals across 49 countries.

One challenge participant said:

> *'I have MS but not many people knew about this until I did the challenge. I was amazed by the response I had to me doing the challenge - I set the target at £250 originally, however I raised over £2,000 due to the response I had from friends, family and work colleagues. It's been quite a pivotal and formative part of my journey with MS.'*

Cycle for MS

MSIF announced the rebrand of our Tour de France cycling event formerly known as Cykelnerven International to Cycle for MS: Conquer the Tour. While the name has changed, the heart and spirit of the event remain the same. You can expect the same challenging routes and tough rides.

With plans to retire at the end of the year, Peer Baneke, CEO at MSIF, decided to take on challenge like no other and take part in Cycle for MS, in his final year as CEO to mark his retirement. For Peer, a cycling enthusiast, this meant heading to the Alps and taking on some of the toughest climbs of the Tour de France. When asked about taking part in the challenge, Peer said:

When asked about taking part in the challenge, Peer said:

> *'I was not sure if I could still do this, but after pushing ourselves to keep going – alongside two of our fellow cyclists, who live with MS - and then reaching those snow covered mountain passes, it was an absolute thrill and an unforgettable experience. I encourage any true cycling enthusiasts to join Cycle for MS in 2025, for the unique experience and to help make MSIF's work towards a world without MS possible!*
>
> *On behalf of people living with MS around the world, I would like to extend a huge thanks to all our cyclists and all those who supported them.'*

LOOKING FORWARD

We cannot wait for Cycle for MS in 2025, based on stages 12 and 14 of the Tour de France 2025 route, Cycle for MS will be returning to The Pyrenees for the first time since 2018. From 10-15 June, riders will take on some of the most famous tour mountains, including Col du Tourmalet, Col du Soulor, Col d'Aspin and Superbagnères. We are excited to deliver an elevated experience for our riders thanks to our partnership with Rouleur Travel.

We are pleased to share that we will be joined by four MSIF members for The May 50K 2025. We will continue to deliver a fun and inclusive fundraising campaign and encourage high levels of participation and fundraising efforts from people across the globe.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The MSIF movement has achieved significant progress together in 2024. The activities in this article represent the power of collaboration and the dedication of MSIF's members and MS organisations across the globe.

At the end of 2024 we wish farewell to MSIF's CEO Peer Baneke and a warm welcome to our new CEO Lydia Makaroff.

In 2025 we will continue to build on the progress made towards our strategic aims and explore exciting new areas, including focusing our collaborative efforts on improving access to MS diagnosis.

The MSIF movement continues to bring the world together, to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of everybody affected by MS, and to end MS forever.

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