

About Multiple Sclerosis

- Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.
- MS interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving.
- Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The advancement, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS.
- Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease.
- MS affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S. and 2.1 million worldwide.



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
Southern California
& Nevada Chapter

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

- The National MS Society helps each person address the challenges of living with MS through our 50-state network of chapters.
- The National MS Society funds more MS research, provides more services to people with MS, offers more professional education and furthers more advocacy efforts than any other MS organization in the world.
- The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. We are people who want to do something about MS now. Join the movement at www.nationalMSSociety.org.

About the Southern California & Nevada Chapter

- The Southern California & Nevada Chapter serves 19,000 Southern & Central Californians and Nevadans living with MS, plus their families, in our local communities.
- 80 cents of every dollar raised by the Chapter directly funds programs, education and research.
- The Southern California & Nevada Chapter keeps lives moving forward with a wide range of programs and services, tailored to meet individual needs. These include an MS information and resource center, educational programs, physical activity and wellness classes, emotional support, interactive programs for families, financial assistance, and much more.
- Headquartered in West Los Angeles, we have eight regional offices in Bakersfield, Fresno, Lancaster, Las Vegas, Palm Desert, Reno, Santa Barbara and Upland.
- The Chapter depends on support from members, friends, corporate partners and the public at large to move us closer toward a world free of MS.

About MS Research

- The National MS Society devotes \$40 million each year to MS research projects aimed at stopping MS in its tracks, restoring function that's been lost, and ending MS forever. Over \$8.5 million is invested in research projects conducted in Southern California.
- There are more potential therapies in the pipeline for MS than at any other time in history, including the oral treatments for MS.
- The Society funded basic and clinical research that helped lead to the development of each of the eight approved disease-modifying drugs for MS.
- We funded a major collaborative initiative that led to breakthroughs in identifying gene variations that contribute to MS susceptibility.
- We have trained or funded many of the leading MS researchers making breakthroughs today.
- Right now, our researchers are developing and testing novel experimental treatments and tissue repair strategies that may soon be in use for MS.

About Bike MS: Coastal Challenge

- Established in 1980, the National MS Society's Bike MS Ride is the country's largest organized charity bicycling event series. Since the rides began as one ride in Minnesota in 1980, cyclists have raised more than \$800 million to support MS.
- Bike MS: Coastal Challenge 2011 takes place Saturday and Sunday, October 1st & 2nd. Participants may opt for one or two days of riding, from 30 to 160 miles on an unforgettable journey, starting in the beautiful city of Ventura, a place to bring the whole family and friends to join in on the fun.
- Monies raised support education, advocacy, research and local programs that enhance the quality of life for people with MS and their families.
- For information on cycling, organizing a team, or volunteering in Bike MS, please call 310.479.4456 or visit www.bikeMSsocal.org.