



MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.
2007 ANNUAL REPORT

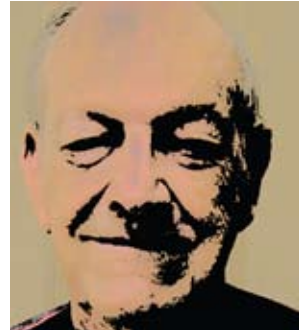
The year of CHANGE:
TOGETHER
we are
STRONGER

WHAT IS MGFA

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc. (MGFA) is the only national volunteer health agency dedicated solely to the fight against myasthenia gravis. MGFA has over 30 chapters around the United States serving patients and their families and caregivers through support groups and programs. Each chapter is independently operated, but each shares the vision of a world without MG.

OUR MISSION

MGFA is committed to finding a cure for myasthenia gravis and closely related disorders, improving treatment options and providing information and support to people with myasthenia gravis through research, education, community programs and advocacy.



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STRATEGIC PLAN

2005 was a year of listening and learning, and 2006 was a year of assessment. 2007 was the year of change. Building a sustainable MGFA with a diversified and stable funding base, increasing public awareness about myasthenia gravis and MGFA, and developing comprehensive, consistent and quality patient/chapter services programs were all part of the strategic plan adopted by the board of directors.

Building on its successful program year, MGFA continued to strengthen the MGFA endowment by implementing a sound investment strategy, and increased its presence both on the internet and through advocacy and outreach. New members broadened and strengthened the board of directors, and an increase in funding and programming have positioned MGFA as a leader in myasthenia gravis research into better diagnosis, better treatment and, potentially, a cure for myasthenia gravis.



ESTHER LAND

Esther Land of Grand Rapids, MI, stepped down as chairperson of the MGFA national board of directors at the April 2007 Annual Meeting. Esther was first elected to the MGFA board in 1986 and served five terms on the board. Esther was elected to the chair position upon the untimely death of Barry Gold in 2002, and subsequently was elected to a full three-year term in 2004. Esther's philosophy of life is what MGFA is all about: nothing is impossible if you believe. Esther has contributed much to MGFA over the years and will continue to do so in the future.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc., held its annual meeting April 19-21, 2007, at Doubletree Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. Attendance was the best it has been in several years, with 20 chapters represented and 160 attendees from 27 states, the District of Columbia, two Canadian provinces, and Pakistan. Attendees included medical professionals, chapter leaders, and MG patients and their families and friends. Highlights of the meeting included Myrl Weinberg, president of the National Health Council, who presented



MGFA chair, Sam Schulhof, with the NHC Standards of Excellence Award. Speakers included Marinos Dalakas, MD, chief of the Neuromuscular Diseases Section at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Daniel Drachman, MD, professor of neurology and W.W. Smith Charitable Trust professor of neuroimmunology at Johns Hopkins University; Henry Kaminski, MD, chair of the Department of Neurology at the St. Louis University Medical Center; Audrey Penn, MD, special advisor to the director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Michael Pulley, MD, PhD, director of the EMG Laboratory at the University of Florida – Jacksonville, College of Medicine; Donald Sanders, MD, co-director of the EMG Laboratory Division of Neurology at Duke University; and Allan Weiss, MD, St. Petersburg, FL, Neurology Clinic.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 11th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders was held May 13-16, 2007, at the Renaissance Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Presented jointly by the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc., the New York Academy of Sciences, and Blackwell Futura Media Services, the conference was organized and co-chaired by MGFA Medical/Scientific Advisory Board members Richard J. Barohn, MD, chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of Missouri, Kansas City and Henry J. Kaminski, MD, chair of the Department of Neurology at the St. Louis University Medical Center.

Over the three-day meeting, which included more than 50 speakers and session chairs and 100 poster displays, attendees participated in stimulating discussions of the neuromuscular junction and treatment of autoimmune diseases. With more than 225 participants from twenty-five countries, this was the most successful gathering of this prestigious conference since its inception in Philadelphia in 1954. We look forward to the next International Conference in 2012.

Photographs courtesy of Janet Myder



AWARDS

DOCTOR OF THE YEAR - Rahman Pourmand, MD

of Stony Brook, NY, was named as MGFA's 2007 Doctor of the Year for his assistance to individuals and families affected by MG.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT - Stanley H. Way of Rockville, MD

received MGFA's Lifetime Achievement Award for his more than two decades of service to MGFA.

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR - Lindsay Knudsen, MS, RADCI

of Milwaukee, WI, received MGFA's inaugural Young Person of the Year Award for her demonstrated commitment and leadership in furthering the goals and mission of MGFA.

NURSE OF THE YEAR - Wilma Koopman, RN, MScN, ACNP, CNN (C)

of London, Ontario was named the 2007 Nurse of the Year for her extraordinary efforts to assist individuals and their families affected by MG and professional and lay education.

FELLOWSHIPS

MGFA awarded three new Post-Doctoral Fellowships for 2007-2008. This twelve-month fellowship is awarded for clinical or basic research related to myasthenia gravis and related neuromuscular disorders.

Jianrong Sheng, PhD

University of Illinois is investigating the use of a specific growth factor (GM-CSF) to induce a specialized type of immune cell as a treatment for mice with MG. Previous work in this area has shown this strategy to be effective in preventing mice from acquiring experimentally-induced MG. The desired outcome of this current research is to use the immune system's own regulatory network to establish immune balance, eliminating the need for chronic immunosuppression. Mentors: Matthew Meriggioli, MD, and Bellur Prabhakar, MD



Shalini Mukherjee, PhD

Texas Southwestern University will investigate the relationship between two antibody-mediated diseases that involve an attack on acetylcholine receptors (AChRs): autoimmune autonomic neuropathy (AAN) and myasthenia gravis (MG). In MG, the antibodies reduce the amount of AChR available to the muscle and damage muscle membrane, whereas in AAN the antibodies attack AChRs on the nerve cell, impairing communication between nerve cells. This research expects to yield important information about the process that occurs in antibody-mediated diseases such as myasthenia gravis. Mentor: Steven Vernino, MD

Jennifer Anderson, PhD

University of California, Davis, will be investigating potential treatment for slow-channel syndrome (SCS), a form of congenital myasthenic syndrome (CMS). This strategy involves developing gene therapy that will silence the abnormal gene, which contributes to the development of slow channel syndrome. The protocol is currently concluded in the in-vitro (test tube) phase and will proceed to in-vivo research in mice. Mentor: Ricardo Maselli, MD

OTHER MGFA RESEARCH

At the recommendation of the MGFA Medical/Scientific Advisory Board, funding was approved for a planning grant to develop a proposal to develop the optimal clinical trial for mycophenolate mofetil.

John Newsom-Davis Award for Residents-in-Training Established

Dr. Newsom-Davis, Oxford University, England, was a leader in clinical and basic research related to myasthenia gravis. His death is a major loss to patients with MG, practitioners, and researchers. To commemorate Dr. John Newsom-Davis's life and his dedication to improving the treatment of patients with myasthenia gravis, MGFA has established The Dr. John Newsom-Davis Award for Neurology Residents-in-Training (registrars, residents or fellows) to attend scientific or clinical meetings related to myasthenia gravis.



2007 SCIENTIFIC SESSION OF THE MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION

The annual scientific session of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) was held on October 6, 2007, in Washington, DC, at the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel. The session was organized by Drs. Matthew N. Meriggioli and Gil I. Wolfe and included presentations from recipients of MGFA's Student and Post-Doctoral fellowships, and discussion of the ongoing international clinical trial on thymectomy.



MGFA ADVOCACY

MGFA continued its national level advocacy, including collaboration with organizations such as the National Health Council (NHC), American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NHC hosted an event in New Hampshire to draw 2008 Presidential candidates' attention to the lack of health and long-term care insurance coverage, a particularly important issue for many people with chronic diseases or disability. MGFA was one of 48 NHC members that signed a statement asking candidates for solutions that would guarantee effective and affordable health and long-term care insurance coverage for all Americans.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The following companies have supported MGFA throughout the 2007 program year.

Athena Diagnostics

www.athenadiagnostics.com

IgG America

www.iggamerica.com

Critical Care Services

www.accsnurses.com

MedPro Rx

www.medprorx.com

CSL Behring

www.cslbehring.com

STRIVING
for a
WORLD
without
MG



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

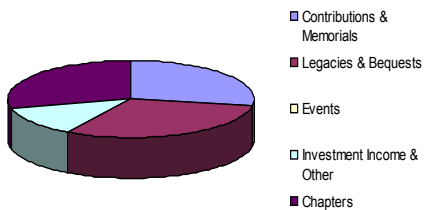
The audited financial statements are available at the MGFA web site at www.myasthenia.org or by contacting MGFA directly at (800) 541-5454.

	National Only	National & Chapters
Support & Revenue		
Contributions & Memorials	284,228	990,207
Legacies & Bequests	319,367	337,741
Events	-	177,796
Investment Income & Other	125,896	312,126
Chapters	299,542	N/A*
Total	1,029,033	1,817,870

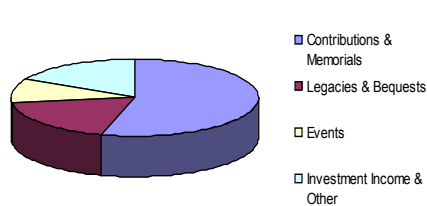
Expenses

Research	320,133	335,658
Education	55,425	121,516
Community Programs	256,149	579,900
Management & Fundraising	190,759	327,273
Total	822,466	1,364,347*

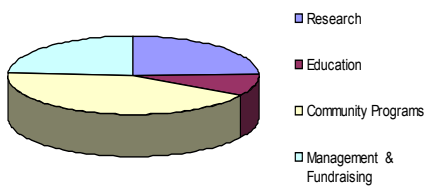
Revenue & Support - National Only



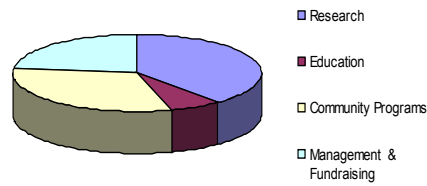
Revenue & Support - National and Chapters



Expenses - National and Chapters



Expenses - National Only



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EXPAND knowledge,
ENCOURAGE research
and
SUPPORT patients and
their families.





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