



# COMMUNICATOR

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## MG-MI REMEMBERS JOHN BEAL

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Michigan lost a dear friend and very special advocate, John Beal, on Feb. 1.



After being diagnosed with myasthenia gravis in 2011, John found MG-MI online and emailed the director immediately to become a volunteer.

With John's expertise in marketing working for Greenridge Realty, he was quickly recruited as a MG-MI board member, serving from 2012-20.

John chaired the Marketing Committee and gladly volunteered at many MG-MI events – he especially enjoyed working at the registration table during the annual walk/run event. John also hosted a weekly MG support group at the Greenridge office building.

John resigned from the Board of Trustees in the fall of 2020 due to health issues. Still, he regularly emailed board members to check in and catch up with everyone. John's contributions and support to the Foundation were generous and extensive, and he is greatly missed.



## THREE EASY WAYS TO CHANGE LIVES WITH MG-MI

Your donation to MG-MI can change lives. Here are three easy ways you can make an impact:

**a** **Amazon Smile.** Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Myasthenia Gravis Foundation as your charitable organization. When you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to MG-MI at no cost to you.

**P** **PayPal.** Make a recurring donation via PayPal at [mg-mi.org](https://mg-mi.org) and select "Donate" to set up a monthly donation. Payments are tax deductible.

**f** **Facebook.** Visit [facebook.com/MGofMI](https://facebook.com/MGofMI) and click "Donate" or set up your own fundraiser and link it to the MG-MI page.

# FDA APPROVES NEW TREATMENT FOR MG

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new medication, VYVGART™, for the treatment of generalized myasthenia gravis in adult patients who are anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody positive.

The new treatment was developed by immunology company Argenx SE and is the first FDA-approved neonatal Fc receptor blocker. Adults living with MG who are anti-acetylcholine receptor antibody positive represent approximately 85% of the total MG population.

“People living with MG have been in need of new treatment options that are targeted to the underlying pathogenesis of the disease and supported by clinical data,” said James F. Howard Jr., M.D., Professor of Neurology at the University of North Carolina and Principal Investigator for the ADAPT trial. “This therapy has the potential to reduce the disease burden of MG and transform the way we treat this disease.”

The approval of VYVGART is based on results from the global Phase 3 ADAPT trial. The ADAPT trial met its primary endpoint, demonstrating significantly more anti-AChR antibody positive MG patients were responders on the



MG-ADL scale following treatment with VYVGART compared with placebo.

Responders were defined as having at least a two-point reduction on the MG-ADL scale sustained for four or more consecutive weeks during the first treatment cycle.

Argenx is committed to supporting affordable access to VYVGART. As part of this commitment, Argenx is launching My VYVGART Path, a program designed to connect patients and clinicians to personalized support throughout the treatment journey.

Program resources include disease and product education, access support and benefits verification, and financial assistance programs for eligible patients.

For more information visit [vyvgart.com](http://vyvgart.com).

# UCB ANNOUNCES POSITIVE PHASE 3 RESULTS FOR ROZANOLIXIZUMAB IN GENERALIZED MG

UCB, a global biopharmaceutical company, announced positive topline results from the Phase 3 MycarinG study valuating rozanolixizumab, a subcutaneously infused monoclonal antibody targeting the neonatal Fc receptor, versus placebo in adults with generalized myasthenia gravis.

The trial met its primary endpoint, demonstrating a statistically significant and clinically meaningful change from baseline in the Myasthenia Gravis-Activities of Daily Living total score at Day 43.

All secondary endpoints were also met with statistical significance.

Overall rozanolixizumab was well tolerated, and no new safety signals were identified. The safety and efficacy of rozanolixizumab have not been established, and it is not approved for use in any indication by any regulatory authority worldwide.



The final Phase 3 data from the study and additional details will be presented at an upcoming medical meeting this year.

“For the many thousands of people living with myasthenia gravis around the world, current treatment options can be very limited,” said

Samantha Masterson, CEO of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America. “Given that this disease causes a wide range of symptoms, some of which can require urgent intervention or hospitalization, there is a critical need for new treatment options that could address the unmet needs of patients living with myasthenia gravis.”

For more information on this study, visit the newsroom page at [ucb.com](http://ucb.com).

## BRADFORD MATHIS JOINS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MG-MI is excited to welcome Bradford Mathis to its Board of Trustees.

Bradford is vice president of community development and inclusion at Rockford Construction and has a background in health care services and real estate.



Bradford is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a master's degree in both Human Services Administration and Public Policy. He also serves on three other nonprofit boards.

He and his wife, Andola, reside in Grand Rapids.

## SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULES

Regional and virtual support groups are being scheduled for this year.

We will continue holding in-person meetings outdoors from May to October. If you are willing to locate a park with a pavilion in your area, please call our office.



Virtual meetings will be available for those unable to attend in person. Dates will be posted on our website and links will be sent via email.

For more information, visit the calendar page under the events tab at [mg-mi.org](http://mg-mi.org).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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# SAVE THE DATES

## MG-MI MOVES MG

Join us as we celebrate 46 years of serving the Michigan MG community **Saturday, June 25** at Cascade Township Park, 3810 Thornapple River Drive SE, in Grand Rapids. Registration opens in May.



The event is open to all ages and includes:

- Yard games
- 1-mile and 5K fun run, bike or rollerblade
- Cardio drumming class by Suzi Richards (TBD)
- Event shirts
- Silent auction

## 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's Annual Patient Education Conference is scheduled for the weekend of **Oct. 22** and will be virtual, bringing live presentations directly to you for your safety. Registration opens in August. If you have conference topics you would like discussed by our medical professionals, please email myasthenia.info@gmail.com.

