

Celebration!

COMMUNICATOR



50 Years of Service

Honoring our past. Inspiring our future.

Nearly 100 guests gathered August 20 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum to celebrate the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Michigan's 50th anniversary. In 1976, MG-MI's founder Esther Land, brought together 10 people with myasthenia gravis. Today, MG-MI serves more than 750 Michigan patients and reaches twice that number through its database, offering education conferences, health summits, and in-person and online support meetings.

Along with celebrating its history, MG-MI announced plans for the future, including "Fueling the Care," a new initiative providing one-on-one social work and advocacy support for the nearly 1500 patients and caregivers served by MG-MI.

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Fueling The Care

for Myasthenia Gravis in Michigan

Myasthenia gravis affects more than muscle strength, often bringing emotional stress, financial strain, insurance barriers, and complex care decisions. MG-MI's new *Fueling the Care* initiative will add MG-informed social work and patient navigation to help patients understand their disease, access treatments, resolve payer issues, and connect with community resources.

MG-MI seeks \$90,000 for this 36-month pilot and has secured a \$45,000 matching grant. Tax-deductible donations will be matched and can help bring this vital resource to Michigan's MG community.

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS
mgmi
FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN



MG-MI's Susan Woolner announces the launch of "Fueling the Care"

Get the full details and donate here:

<https://mg-mi.org/get-involved/fueling-the-care/>

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An Evening of Celebration & Gratitude

Special thanks to our volunteer photographers: Brandie DeHaan, Gladys Wierenga and Ann Rayford



Shelley Irwin, from WGTV Public Broadcasting's Shelley Irwin Show. Not only did Shelley do an excellent job as MC, she's also been a big supporter of MG-MI for many years.



MG-MI Co-directors **Keshia Dickason** and **Wardell Frazier Jr.** welcomed attendees and introduced the silent auction which raised more than \$500 for MG-MI.



Founder **Esther Land** was honored for creating and growing MG-MI's nationally recognized foundation.



Esther M. Land Founder's Award
Jack Passwaters was the recipient of the 2026 award, given annually to someone who has provided extraordinary service to the Michigan MG community.



50 Years of Service Award
John R. Visser, MD



50 Years of Service Award
Evelyn P. Navarro, MD



50 Years of Service Award
Sue E. Higgs, Elida Williams, and Cathy Wassenar who attended MG-MI's first annual meeting in 1976.



MG-MI board member **Lisa Gigliotti** opened the program with a heartfelt prayer and a few observations about how the organization helped her come to terms with her illness.



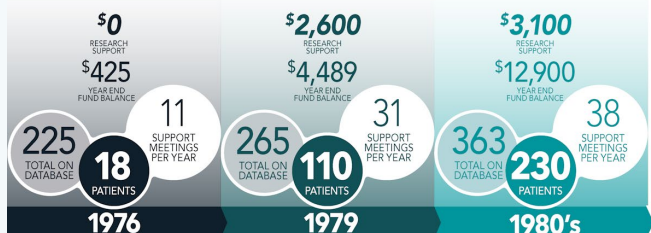
Rae Green served as MG-MI's executive director in the early 1990s.



Amit Sachdev, MD, MS - Michigan State University is a member of the MG-MI Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Sachdev outlined the medical student research projects into various aspects of MG treatment and care.

50 Years of Milestones

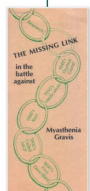
MG-MI MILESTONES MEMORABLE INFORMATION



Tony Randall,
actor &
MG National
Campaign
Chairman



First Annual
Meeting



Printed our
1st brochure
"Missing Link"



Governor Milliken
proclaims
MG Week



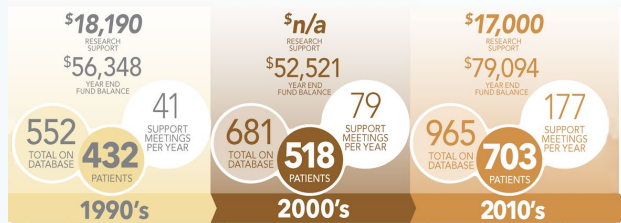
Eastbrook Mall
Health Expo

Became Great Lakes Chapter of MGFA
Osserman Quarterly Newsletter
Established Medical Advisory Board

Fashion Show Fundraiser
Mall Bazaar Fundraisers
Christmas cards sales
MG & Rel Disease Annual to medical doctors
Began Support Meetings
Gave Nursing Training
Media Promotion

Celebrated 10th Anniversary
Exhibited at Eastbrook Mall Bazaar
Hired PT office staff & PT Director
"Trash for Cash" Fundraiser
Las Vegas Nights Fundraiser
Combined Federal Campaign Funding

MG-MI MILESTONES MEMORABLE INFORMATION



Harley-Davidson
Poker Runs



Annual Hoop
Open Golf Outing



5K became
5K Run/Walk



Printed brochure
"Understanding MG"



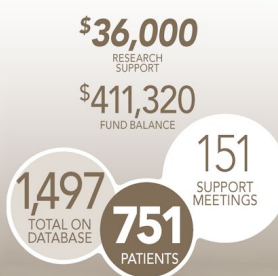
2018 Annual
Conference MSU

MI Frat Order-Eagles \$18,190
Grant for MI research at Wayne State Univ
Travel Grand Traverse Motorcycle FR
MG Splash with Gd Valley Divers Club
Hosted MGFA Annual Conf in 1994
Produced PSA with ITA-Mid-MI
First Walk-a-thon
Hired PT Executive Director

Celebrated 25th Anniversary
Walk-a-thon became 5K Run/Walk
Several Restaurant Fundraisers
Texas Hold'em Fundraisers
Spartan UPC Labels Fundraiser
Bedroll & Barbecue Fundraiser
Gov. Engler photo op - MG Awareness
30 min. awareness taping at GVSU TV

Name change to MG of MI
Obtained our own 501(c)(3) status
Governance from Trustees to Directors
Began sponsorships with Pharma cos
Celebrated 35th & 40th Anniversaries
WZZM TV appearances
Printed "Understanding MG" brochure
Began full-day annual conferences

MG-MI MILESTONES MEMORABLE INFORMATION



Began Health Summit & Resource Fair
Expanded pharmaceutical partnerships
Research grants to Yale U & MGNet
Virtual Conference & Support Mtgs
Contract with Communications Mgr
Hired PT Admin Assistant
First Medical Student Resch Grant
Awarded 8 Med Student Resch Grants
Hired PT ED-Development
Hired PT ED-Org Strat & Admin
Rec. \$55,500 from bequests



2020's Thru June 2026

Commemorative Brochures

We would be happy to send you a copy of the 50th Anniversary commemorative brochure. Please email or call us.
A donation of \$5 will help cover postage costs, but is not required.
info@mg-mi.org or 616-956-0622



VYVGART Hytrulo®
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argenx



Research News

TREATMENT UPDATES

MINT Trial Analysis: Inebilizumab Reduces Exacerbations in gMG

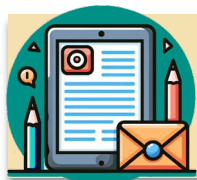
MINT randomized 238 patients to inebilizumab 300 mg IV vs placebo with a protocol-driven taper of prednisone to ≤ 5 mg/day and follow-up to 52 weeks for AChR+ patients and 26 weeks for MuSK+ patients.

Claseprubart begins Phase 3 EMERGE Trial for potential treatment of gMG

Dianthus Therapeutics, Inc. has announced initiation of the Phase 3 EMERGE trial of claseprubart in generalized Myasthenia Gravis. Claseprubart is an investigational, clinical-stage, potent monoclonal antibody engineered to selectively target the classical pathway by inhibiting only the active form of the C1s protein, a clinically validated complement target.

Vor Completes Enrollment of Global Phase 3 UPSTREAM MG Trial and Expands Telitacicept Global Franchise into Ocular Myasthenia Gravis

Global Phase 3 ocular myasthenia gravis (oMG) registrational trial, UPSTREAM oMG, broadens telitacicept development across the myasthenia gravis (MG) spectrum; first patient dosing anticipated in the first half of 2027.



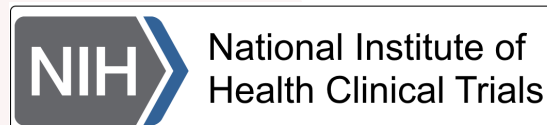
Access Complete
Articles Here

<https://mg-mi.org/resources/mg-news>

Clinical Trial Resources



<https://mgnet.rarediseasesnetwork.org/>



<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=Myasthenia%20Gravis>



Connect With a
**generalized Myasthenia Gravis (gMG)
Patient Education Manager**

Understanding your or your loved one's rare disease is important. Your Patient Education Manager (PEM) is here to help along the way by providing education and local community connections.

**YOUR DISEASE IS RARE,
BUT IT'S NOT RARE TO US!**



Scan this QR code with your phone to connect with a local gMG PEM in your area.



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Development
Wardell Frazier, Jr.,
Organization, Strategy & Admin.

ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Dana Green

COMMUNICATIONS

John Bosserman



The Executive Directors' Corner

Wardell Frazier, Jr. & Keshia Dickason

As we continue celebrating 50 years of service, support, education, and advocacy, we are incredibly grateful for everyone who has been part of the MG-MI community.

Our recent 50th Anniversary Celebration was a wonderful reminder of just how far this organization has come and, more importantly, how many patients, families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, volunteers, donors, and community partners have contributed to our journey.

While we are proud of our history, we are equally excited about what comes next. As Executive Directors, we remain committed to strengthening MG-MI, expanding our reach throughout Michigan, developing meaningful partnerships, and ensuring that individuals and families impacted by myasthenia gravis have access to the information, resources, advocacy, and support they need.

The next chapter of MG-MI will be built alongside all of you. We look forward to listening, learning, creating new opportunities, and continuing to strengthen a community where no one navigating MG has to do so alone.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us carry this important mission forward.

What could your days look like with IMAAVY™?



Scan to learn more

Data rates may apply.



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NOW IN OUR VIDEO LIBRARY!

MG-MI Health Summit & Resource Fair – May 2026



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAbw5HTajXk>

Couldn't attend our regional health summit last May? You can still see the presentations in our MG-MI Video Library.

- Michelle L. Crooks, MD, *Neurology consultant*
Managing Your Chronic Condition
- April Davenport, LMSW, CDP, *Clinical Social Worker*
Living with a Chronic Condition
- Olivia Buckhout, MS, CCC-SLP, *Speech-Language Pathologist*
MG & Speech Pathology
- Dr. Laura Lenkey, PhD, CCC-SLP *Founder and CEO of VPED*
- Patient Panel: Brandie DeHaan, Wallace Fu & Lynn Huls
- Susan Woolner, CPXP, *Neuro Patient Support – Trinity Health*
Access to New Therapies in Michigan

Myasthenia Gravis

Integrating Clinical Knowledge & Holistic Care in Nursing



Beth A. Kelley, PhD, FNP-C, CNM has shared an article with us about the importance of nurses knowing as much as they can about neuromuscular diseases, especially myasthenia gravis. The article will appear in the December 2026 issue of American Journal of Nursing. We are including a short excerpt here. Dr. Kelley was a presenter at our Regional Health Summit in August of 2025.

Nursing Implications and Holistic Care Strategies

Because MG is primarily managed in outpatient settings, nursing care focuses on patient education, safety, medication adherence, and coping strategies.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Optimal MG management relies on a coordinated interdisciplinary team:

- **Neurologists & Neuromuscular Specialists:** Oversee medical diagnosis and pharmacological strategy.
- **Physical Therapists (PT):** Assist in developing safe movement strategies and managing secondary musculoskeletal strain.
- **Occupational Therapists (OT):** Provide adaptive equipment and energy-conservation strategies for daily living.
- **Psychologists:** Provide targeted cognitive and coping therapies for chronic disease adaptation.
- **Nurses:** Serve as the central hub of the team, integrating clinical monitoring, patient education, emotional support, and care coordination.



Connecting the stops on your MG journey

MG Connections is your GPS for the myasthenia gravis (MG) journey! With easy-to-follow routes and real-life navigation tips, we're here to help you, your loved ones, and the whole MG community chart new paths, discover helpful detours, and celebrate every mile together.

Scan the code to learn more.



Inspired by patients.
Driven by science.

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AMGEN

Amgen is proud to support
the Myasthenia Gravis
Foundation of Michigan.

Free! In-Person or Online

10th MG-MI Patient Education Conference

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 • 8:30 am to 3 pm

Hilton Garden Inn Detroit/Novi
27355 Cabaret Dr., Novi, MI 48377



50 YEARS
FOUNDED 1976

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS
mgmi
FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

Join MG-MI for our 10th Annual Patient Education Conference on Saturday, October 10—in Novi, Michigan or online. This free event features leading myasthenia gravis experts, MSU medical student research presentations, a patient panel, and annual awards celebrating the MG community. Patients, families, caregivers, friends, and medical professionals are welcome.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:15 – 8:55	Registration Continental Breakfast Visit Sponsors
8:55	Welcome
9:00 – 9:30	MSU Student Research Presentations (3)
9:30 – 10:30	Keynote: Kevin C. O'Connor, PhD <i>Professor of Neurology and Immunobiology, Yale School of Medicine</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Break Visit Sponsors Mingle
10:45 – 11:45	Amanda L. Hernandez, MD, PhD <i>Assist. Professor, Neuromuscular Medicine & Neuro-Immunology, University of Connecticut</i>
11:45 – 12:30	Lunch Visit Sponsors Mingle
12:30 – 12:45	MG-MI Awards Ceremony
12:45 – 1:15	Patient Panel <i>Leanne Hosking, Erik Rayford</i>
1:15 – 1:45	Amit Sachdev, MD, MS <i>Director, Neurology & Ophthalmology, Michigan State University</i>
1:45 - 2:00	Break Visit Sponsors Mingle
2:00 – 3:00	MSU Student Research Presentations (5)
3:00	Wrap Up

REGISTER NOW!

<https://secure.ggiv.com/for/MG-MIConferences/event/october2026/>

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2026 Support Calendar

2026 VIRTUAL SUPPORT MEETINGS



Quarterly on the 3rd Thursday at 12:00 noon

Oct 15 – Aimee Smithem – Work Smarter Not Harder

Quarterly on the 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 am

Nov. 17 – argenx – MG and Emotional Health

Quarterly on the 1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Dec 1 – argenx - Vyvgart overview

For more, go to
<https://mg-mi.org/upcoming-events/>

2026 IN-PERSON SUPPORT MEETINGS

Sept. 14. Mon – Macomb County Regional 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 29860 Dequindre Rd, Warren. Maryjo Prince-Paul, Alexion patient advocate, Topic: “Take on your Tomorrow” discussing gMG, a treatment (Ultomiris), and helpful resources

Sept. 22, Tue – Rockford 6:30 – 7:45 pm, Rockford Reformed Church 4890 11 Mile Rd, Rockford, MI. Max Bloomquist from Blue Bridge – An educational discussion on infusion therapy for Myasthenia Gravis, including what to expect during treatment, managing side effects, and available patient support

Dec. 7, Mon – Macomb County Regional - 7:00 – 8:30pm. Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, 29860 Dequindre Rd, Warren Topic: “Beyond the Diagnosis: Understanding gMG and Imaavy,” presented by Johnson & Johnson’s Abby Tener

December 14th, Mon – Portage Zhang Senior Center – 6:00 – 7:00 pm 203 E Centre Ave, Portage, MI Topic TBD

In-person & Virtual

10th MG Patient Education Conference

Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026 10 am to 3 pm
Hilton Garden Inn Detroit/Novi - Novi, MI

REGISTER
NOW!

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FOUNDED 1976
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2660 Horizon Dr. SE, Ste. 235
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<https://www.youtube.com/@MG-MI/videos>

Our Mission: The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Michigan is committed to our MG Community by providing patient support, community connections, education, and advocacy.

Our Vision: Living your best life with MG