7th ANNUAL VIRTUAL MSA CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 19 - 20, 2026

ANNUAL MSA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

HOPE FOR MSA

NEW DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH & ADVANCING CARE

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Welcome to the 7th Annual Virtual MSA Conference!

Welcome to the 7th Annual Virtual MSA Conference, taking place September 19–20, 2026.

This year's theme, "Hope for MSA: New Directions in Research & Advancing Care", reflects both where the MSA community is today and where we hope to go next.

Across two days of free virtual programming, physicians, scientists, healthcare professionals, people living with MSA, caregivers and advocates will come together to explore advances in research, diagnosis, care and life with Multiple System Atrophy.

Saturday, September 19 will focus primarily on clinical topics and the care of people living with MSA.

Sunday, September 20 will focus on science and research, including biomarkers, autonomic and cardiovascular issues and new directions in our understanding of MSA.

Throughout the conference, attendees will also have opportunities to bring their questions directly to experts through live Ask the Experts and Ask the Scientists discussions.

Whether you are living with MSA, caring for someone you love, working in the field or seeking to better understand this rare disease, we are grateful to have you with us.

Together, we continue building hope through knowledge, connection, research and better care.

Conference Format:

Educational presentations are generally 30 minutes or less.
Following select presentations there will be live Q&A sessions (approximately 45–60 minutes).
Breakout sessions are not recorded.
All times are approximate and subject to change. Updated information on the Hub.
All conference talks will be available to watch after the conference on the MSA Hub

You must join the "MSA Hub" to see the conference!
MSA Hub: https://msa-hub.circle.so

U.S. attendees may also receive a free conference awareness package (while supplies last, one per patient household). Hub registered conference participants need to fill the form to get the package.

A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors!!!

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Speakers and Topics

Saturday 9/19

- Philip W Tipton, MD | Spotlight: UNBIND P2: "Spotting Multiple System Atrophy Before It Hides Behind Parkinson's"
- Daniel Di Luca, MD | Spotlight: "Third MSA Consensus Criteria & Differentiating Between Atypical Parkinson"
- Enrique Urrea-Mendoza, MD: "Orthostatic Hypotension in Multiple System Atrophy: Myths, Pitfalls, and Practical Management"
- Gabriel Arango, MD: "Diagnostic Criteria for MSA And Diagnostic Assessment"
- **Ask the Doctor / Q&A** - Lisa Bilek, PhD (moderator)
- Sindhu Ramesh, MD: "Qigong and Tai Chi: A Complementary Mind-Body Approach to Enhancing Quality of Life in Multiple System Atrophy"
- **Caregivers Break-Out**: "POV: Resources and tips from a Caregiver's journey" - moderators: Rodney Rastall, Andrea O'Neil and Michelle Craigen
- Gabriel Arango, MD: "Criterios Diagnósticos Para la AMS y Evaluación Diagnóstica" (Spanish)
- Enrique Urrea-Mendoza, MD: "Hipotensión Ortostática en la Atrofia Multisistémica: Mitos, Dificultades y Manejo Práctico" (Spanish)
- **Q&A Session (Spanish)** - Sandra Garzon (moderator)

NOTE: Presentations times are subject to change. For exact times, please log in to the MSA Hub.

Sunday 9/20

- Peter Barbuti, PhD: "Proteins & Lipids: A Star Wars Story for MSA"
- Victor Dieriks, PhD: "Alpha-Synuclein Diversity in Multiple System Atrophy: From Pathogenesis to Target Discovery"
- Maria Xilouri, PhD: "Bridging Rodent and Human Experimental Models to Decode Multiple System Atrophy Pathogenesis"
- Gabor G. Kovacs, MD, PhD: "Multiple System Atrophy: Translating Neuropathological Insights into Biomarkers and Therapeutic Trials"
- **Q&A Panel**: "A Discussion With the Scientists" - moderators: Rodney Rastall and Michelle Craigen
- Nirosen Vijiaratnam, MBBS, BMedSci, FRACP, FRCP, PhD: "Insulin Resistance in Multiple System Atrophy"
- Glenda Halliday, AC, PhD, FAA, FAHMS | Spotlight: "New Information About α-synuclein in MSA"
- Satish R. Raj, MD (cardiologist) | Spotlight: "Orthostatic Hypotension in Multiple System Atrophy: Presentation, Testing & Management"
- Alberto J. Espay, MD | Spotlight: "Alpha-Synuclein: The Protein We Should Restore, Not Remove"
- Hiromasa Mori, MBA - "Why is MSA Drug Development so Difficult?"
- Ionis | Sponsor, Karen Lai, PharmD: "Ionis MSA Program Update 2026 – HORIZON Trial"
- Lundbeck | Sponsor, David Wang, PhD: "Amlenetug for MSA: Where We Are and What's to Come"
- **Ask the Scientist / Q&A** - Peter Barbuti, PhD (moderator)

2026 Spotlight Speakers

Philip W. Tipton
MD

Satish R. Raj
MD

Glenda Halliday
PhD

Daniel Di Luca
MD

Alberto J. Espay
MD, MSc

Philip W. Tipton, MD

Philip W. Tipton, MD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Neurology at the University of Tennessee Medical Center and Director of Research for The Cole Center for Parkinson's & Movement Disorders. A movement and behavioral neurologist, his clinical and research interests include Parkinson's disease, multiple system atrophy (MSA), and other neurodegenerative disorders.

Dr. Tipton's MSA research has shown that vocal fold hypomobility may precede more recognizable neurological features of the disease. His work has also highlighted the importance of screening for REM sleep behavior disorder (RBD) in patients with vocal fold dysfunction, as the combination may raise suspicion for an underlying synucleinopathy.

He earned his MD from East Tennessee State University and completed neurology training and fellowships in Behavioral Neurology and Movement Disorders at Mayo Clinic. He is board certified in Adult Neurology and Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry.

Dr. Tipton serves on the MSA United Global Research Consortium Research Advisory Board and the research advisory board of consortium member Defeat MSA Alliance (USA).

Satish R. Raj, MD, MSCI

Satish R Raj MD MSCI is the Section Chief of the Adult Cardiac Arrhythmia Group at the University of Calgary. He spent 12 years at the Vanderbilt University Autonomic Dysfunction Center before moving back to the University of Calgary in 2014, where he founded the Calgary Autonomic Investigation & Management Clinic. He is currently a Professor of Cardiac Science at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine.

He runs an active research program in Human Autonomic Physiology. His primary research interests relate to understanding and better treating postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), vasovagal syncope, and orthostatic hypotension including in patients with MSA.

Dr. Raj is a member of the MSA United Global Research Consortium Research Advisory Board and also serves on the research advisory board for consortium member, Defeat MSA/Vaincre AMS Canada.

Glenda Halliday, AC, PhD, FAA, FAHMS

Professor Glenda Halliday is an internationally recognized neuroscientist whose research has significantly advanced understanding of Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), Parkinson's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders. Her pioneering work linking neuropathological changes with clinical symptoms and disease progression has contributed to international diagnostic and staging criteria.

Professor Halliday is an NHMRC Leadership Fellow at Macquarie University and Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Sydney. Her many honors include the Robert A. Pritzker Prize for Leadership in Parkinson's Research, 2022 NSW Scientist of the Year, and appointment as a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2023.

She serves on the Research Advisory Board of the MSA United Global Research Consortium, as well as those of National MSA Research (Australia) and Defeat MSA Alliance (USA), and has previously received research funding as a co-investigator from MSA United and its member organizations.

Daniel Di Luca, MD

Dr. Di Luca is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his Neurology residency at the University of Miami, where he served as a chief resident. He also completed a clinical and research movement disorders fellowship at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Prof. Anthony Lang, followed by a master's in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research from the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) at the University of Toronto.

His main research interests include neuromodulation, epidemiology, and novel therapies for motor and non-motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders, including multiple system atrophy.

Dr. Di Luca is a member of the MSA United Global Research Consortium Research Advisory Board and also serves on the research advisory board for consortium member, Defeat MSA Alliance (USA).

Alberto J. Espay, MD, MSc, FAAN, FANA

Dr. Alberto Espay is Professor and Endowed Chair of the James J. and Joan A. Gardner Center for Parkinson's Disease at the University of Cincinnati. An internationally recognized movement disorders neurologist and researcher, he has authored more than 400 peer-reviewed publications, 40 book chapters, and 10 books on Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders.

Dr. Espay has held leadership roles with the American Academy of Neurology and the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society and has served as Associate Editor of Movement Disorders. His numerous honors include awards from the British Medical Association, Spanish Society of Neurology, and Mexican Academy of Neurology.

His research challenges traditional diagnosis-based approaches to neurodegenerative disease and emphasizes the use of biomarkers to identify underlying biological mechanisms and guide personalized treatments. He leads the Cincinnati Cohort Biomarker Program (CCBP), a major study seeking to match individuals with neurodegenerative disorders to therapies based on their biological profiles rather than clinical diagnosis alone.

2026 Q&A Moderators

Peter Barbuti

PhD,

Director, Research Defeat MSA & MSA United

Lisa Bilek

PhD,

Former Board Member Defeat MSA USA Volunteer, Moderator

Sandra Garzón

SLT,

Volunteer, Spanish language Advisor

Andrea O'Neil

RN, BSN,

Board Member Defeat MSA, Member, Medical Advisory

Rodney Rastall

Video Advisor & videographer Board Member, Defeat MSA

Michelle Craigen

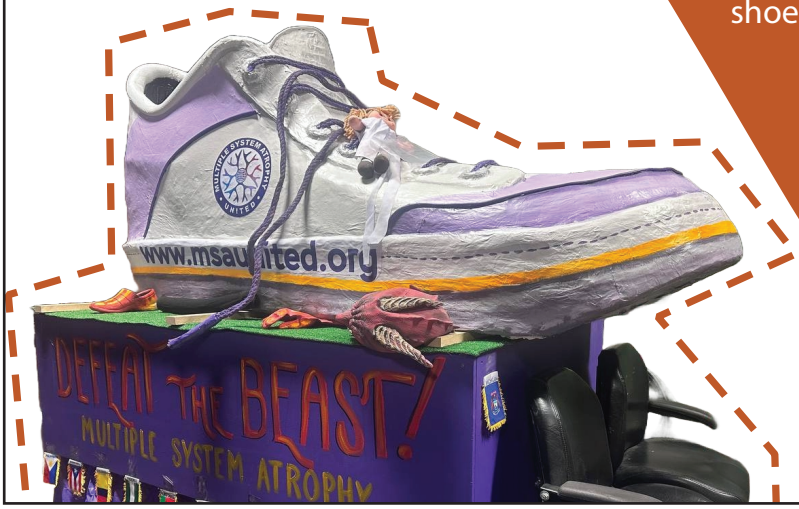
Board Member, Defeat MSA/Vaincre AMS Canada Moderator

Meet the MSA Shoe and the World's First MSA Awareness Float!

www.msashoe.org
info@msashoe.org

Our mascot was born to bring MSA awareness and joy to the World! In 2024, the Defeat MSA krewe built a supersized clone float of the typical-sized shoe and took it to the streets of Detroit for the annual masquerade themed parade, the Marche du Nain Rouge (March of Red Dwarf).

#KickMSA #MSAShoe

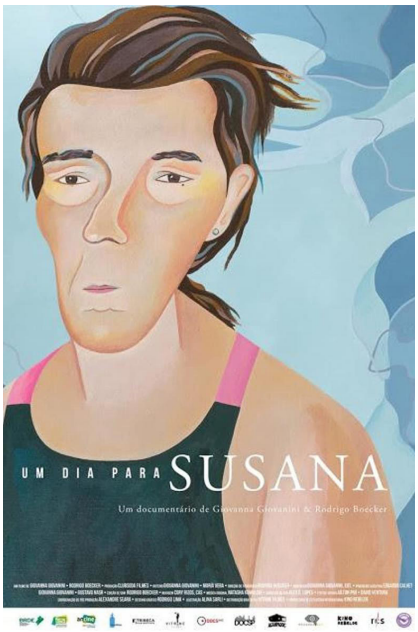


If you want to host the BIG Shoe Float (and the LITTLE Shoe) in your city, please visit: https://msashoe.org/be-a-host

Mini MSA Film Series

These award-winning documentaries are available to you throughout the whole conference for free.

GLIMPSES, a New Zealand documentary film directed by award-winning filmmaker Guy Pigden and funded by Defeat MSA Alliance is a shared collection of intimate thoughts and experiences from a man dying of a rare and aggressive neurological disease called Multiple System Atrophy (MSA). He can no longer communicate these thoughts verbally but framed by the narration of his own writing, we discover his mind is still very much alive.
(New Zealand, 57 minutes, English Subtitles)



A DAY FOR SUSANA (Um Dia Para Susana) is a documentary film about Susana Schnarndorf, a 48 year old Brazilian triathlete and 6 time Ironman winner who has been diagnosed with Multiple System Atrophy. We witness the daily struggle and the professional and personal challenge of a world athlete and current Paralympic competitor. The story begins after Susana's divorce and loss of the custody of her children due to her declining condition. The film chronicles her fight back from the edge of despair - a testament to one woman's indomitable spirit - not only to battle for her life but to win against all the odds. It is a story about intense perseverance and personal triumph - a journey of 1,000 days in the run-up to the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
(Brazil, 85 minutes, English Subtitles)

SWIM FOR MSA is a short documentary film following Chloe, a member of the Defeat MSA New Zealand Trust, as she takes on an extraordinary personal challenge: swimming every day throughout 2023 to raise awareness and funds for people living MSA. What begins as a physical challenge becomes a deeply personal journey of courage, resilience and solidarity. Through the rhythm of countless laps, the film reveals the human stories behind MSA and the power of one person's determination to create hope, raise awareness and move a community forward.
(New Zealand, 6:38 minutes, English)

Important Conference Information

Medical Treatment Disclaimer

The purpose of this conference is to provide information about the diagnosis, known treatments, supportive care and current research related to Multiple System Atrophy.

Conference presentations are provided for informational and educational purposes only and are not intended to replace individualized medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Attendees and individuals viewing conference recordings should consult their healthcare providers before making decisions regarding their health or medical care. Questions related to diagnosis, treatment or changes in care should be discussed directly with a qualified healthcare professional.

Personal Views Disclaimer

The views expressed during this virtual MSA conference are those of the individual speakers and participants and do not necessarily represent the opinions, views or official policies of Defeat MSA Alliance.

Defeat MSA Alliance provides this conference and its educational programming as a support and educational service to the MSA community.

Intellectual Property Disclaimer

Conference presentations and related materials remain the intellectual property of their respective speakers and/or Defeat MSA Alliance.

Conference content may not be recorded, reproduced, republished, distributed or reused without appropriate written permission.

Information presented during the conference is intended for educational and informational purposes and should not be considered a substitute for professional advice.

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MSA Hub!

HTTPS://MSA-HUB.CIRCLE.SO

Connect with your local, regional, national and global community!

Access more than 180 multilingual videos on all recent MSA topics!

Defeat MSA Alliance's Mission

Multiple System Atrophy is often overlooked compared with more widely recognized diseases. People living with MSA face a challenging prognosis, limited treatment options and an urgent need for greater support, education and research.

Defeat MSA Alliance is an inclusive U.S.-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization working to support patients, educate medical professionals, raise public awareness, nurture promising research and advocate for the MSA community.

Defeat MSA Alliance's five-fold mission is:

To build a world that truly supports people with MSA.
To foster better medical education about MSA.
To increase public awareness about living with MSA.
To cultivate promising research into treatments and slowing MSA.
To advance the interests of all people challenged by MSA.

Defeat MSA Alliance invites like-minded individuals around the world to join the fight to improve life for those affected by MSA and work toward a future where MSA can be defeated.

Defeat MSA Alliance
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Thank You for Participating!

Thank you for joining the 7th Annual Virtual MSA Conference and being part of a global community committed to advancing care, research, awareness and hope.

Help Us Defeat MSA

www.defeatmsa.org/donate-to-us

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