



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

Animal Research
Regulations- Patient
Advocate Perspectives

Timothy Coetzee, PhD
Chief Research Officer

Susan, diagnosed in 1995



Rick, diagnosed in 1991



STOP. RESTORE. END.

National MS Society

- Founded in 1945 by Sylvia Lawry
- Serve over 1 million individuals through a 50 state network of chapters
- Annual income - Over \$200 million in FY10
- Research Investment
 - \$40 million
 - 325 projects worldwide
 - 1/3 of projects have an animal approval



Animal Models Used In MS

- Experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (mouse, rat, hamster, monkey)
- Viral demyelinating models (Theiler's, MHV)
- Parabiosis
- Chemically-induced demyelination (i.e. cuprizone, lysolecithin, ethidium bromide)
- Preclinical testing of agents (ADME Tox etc.)



Policies on Animal Research

- IACUC or equivalent approval must be provided before funds are released
- Annual monitoring



Our Philosophy

- Animal research is essential for progress in MS
- Encourage development of alternative models
- Publicly state our support for animal research
- Careful to not draw attention unless needed
- Maintain an Ethical, Legal, Social Implications committee to address matters as they arise



Engaging the Public

- Patient advocates AND the scientific community bear responsibility for effectively communicating the import of animal research
- The public is able to appreciate the nuances of animal research
- Attention needs to be paid to shifting media/approaches for communication and education



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