



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Local MS patients have opportunity to guide research

**PEORIA** – (Sept. 16, 2015) More than 100 people living with multiple sclerosis, their family members, care takers and researchers will be telling medical researchers this Saturday what type of MS research they believe should be taking place in central Illinois.

The Center for Outcomes Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, the Illinois Neurological Institute, and Central Illinois MS Council have teamed up to create this unique-in-the-country patient-led MS research event.

**WHAT:** MS Research Community Meeting

**DATE:** Saturday, September 19

**WHERE:** Embassy Suites East Peoria, 100 Conference Center Drive

**\*\*MEDIA\*\*:** Video recording and photographing of the audience is prohibited, however, a panel discussion from 1-2 p.m., is allowable – only the panelists. Interviews will be made available just before and after the panel discussion outside the conference room. We apologize in advance for this requirement.

**EVENT POINT OF CONTACT:** Dr. Carl Asche, Director at the Center for Outcomes Research at UICOMP, (cell) 801-349-9149.

### About Multiple Sclerosis

- MS is a rare disease that affects the central nervous system by disrupting communication between the brain and other parts of the body.
- An estimated 400,000 people in the U.S. have multiple sclerosis
- Most individuals with MS experience initial symptoms between the ages of 20 and 40 years
- For each person living with multiple sclerosis, average hospitalization cost is \$1,271 per year per person and other costs associated with the burden of disease are \$28,571 per year per person
- Approximately \$445 million is spent on direct MS care annually

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