



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Funds awarded to Peoria-based research collaborative; continues work with local MS patients

**PEORIA, Ill.** [May 25, 2016] – A community collaborative made up of doctors, researchers, and people living with multiple sclerosis was awarded \$25,000 to continue developing patient-led research in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – a first model of this kind in the U.S. to focus on the neurological disease.

The “Pipeline to Proposal Award” is the second received from Washington, D.C.-based Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The first award helped fund a conference-style event in East Peoria last year where about 80 people with MS and their care givers voiced their priorities in MS research, including studying alternative therapies and symptoms management.

The latest PCORI award will help move forward proposed research ideas. The project summary can be found online [here](#).

“Last year, we were able to lay a strong foundation for developing meaningful research with MS – by involving the very people who live with the disease every day,” said Dr. Carl Asche, Director of the Center of Outcomes Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. “This new award will help us build and strengthen that new partnership to carry out those ideas.”

The local research collaborative is made up of people living with multiple sclerosis, the Central Illinois MS Council, researchers from the Center for Outcomes Research at UICOMP, and clinicians from the Illinois Neurological Institute’s MS Center.

### 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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