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CONTACT:

David Haney, Director of Strategic Communications
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
309.671.8404 | dhaney@uicomp.uic.edu

Local MS patients have opportunity to guide research

PEORIA – (Aug. 25, 2015) People living with multiple sclerosis (MS) have the unique opportunity to tell medical researchers what type of MS research 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 a patient-led MS research committee.

People living with multiple sclerosis, their family members, care takers and researchers are invited to attend.

WHAT: MS Research Community Meeting

DATE: September 19

TIME: 9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Embassy Suites East Peoria, 100 Conference Center Drive

ALSO: For more information or to register for this free event, call 309-671-8424 or email blparis@uicomp.uic.edu. RSVP is required by September 11. People living with MS are eligible for a \$50 stipend for participation.

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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