



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MS Research Initiative Gets Kick-Start from Local Donation

<September 11, 2007> Winston-Salem – A non-profit organization established by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been given \$250,000 by a local medical researcher and his wife.

Michael J. Morykwas, PhD, and his wife Mardene have provided Fast Forward™ with the donation to aid in funding new research. Fast Forward connects people with breakthrough treatment ideas to people who can turn those ideas into therapies to treat MS. The result is therapies to treat MS reaching the market at a faster pace.

The donation was presented to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society President and CEO, Joyce Nelson, during a dinner featuring David Lander recently held in Winston-Salem. Lander, who has been diagnosed with MS, is best known for his role as “Squiggy” on “Laverne and Shirley.” In addition to the donation from the Morykwas, the dinner raised an additional \$19,000 for the Central North Carolina Chapter of the National MS Society. Further, Dr. and Mrs. Morykwas underwrote all expenses of the David Lander event.

Morykwas became familiar with the Fast Forward initiative through his work on the board of the directors for the National MS Society. In addition he and his wife Mardene, who was diagnosed with MS several years ago, have been honored with the Society’s Circle of Distinction Award for their service to the Society.

Morykwas is the co-inventor of the Vacuum Assisted Closure (VAC) wound closure device and technique. It is used by the US military and worldwide to reduce wound infections. He is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery – Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He is also an Associate in Radiology – Bioengineering and Associate in the Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms

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of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S., and 2.5 million worldwide.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. We help each person address the challenges of living with MS through our 50 state network of chapters. We fund more MS research, provide more services to people with MS, offer more professional education and further more advocacy efforts than any other MS organization in the world. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. We are people who want to do something about MS now. Join the movement at nationalmssociety.org.