



TRI-STATE
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
ASSOCIATION

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November 2023 Newsletter

Offering support, care, and hope...*right here at home!*
The mission of the Tri-State Multiple Sclerosis Association is to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with MS and their families in Southern IN, Southern IL & Western KY

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Autumn Walk

Offering support, care, and hope... right here at home!

EVANSVILLE, IN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023

MUSIC | PRIZES & VENDORS | SILENT AUCTION
AT HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL
211 FIELDING ROAD
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 12:30 PM
WALK STARTS AT 1:30 PM

Several of the Support Group leaders are working on starting back meetings in their areas. Give them a call if you are interested in talking with someone or maybe getting together.

Terry Hasty - Tell City - 812- 686-8183
Fran Neal - Washington - 812-259-1565
Cheryl Walker - Henderson - 270- 823-4752
Susan Reynolds - Owensboro - 812-228-6100

TSMSA will be planning Lunch and Learn meetings in the TSMMSA office.

**** See December 5th Lunch and Learn info.**

REMINDER: To remain on the mail or email list, you **must contact us today:** 812-423-5943 or director@tristatems.org! **We don't want you to miss out on what's happening at TSMMSA!**

Thank You

To all those who attended and supported the Gehlhausen event!



***News from American Academy of Neurology held in Boston in April 2023.**

New blood test for monitoring disease progression in MS.

Octave® Bioscience, Inc. Announces Real-World Study Using its Multimodal Precision Care Solution for Multiple Sclerosis Patient Management

Three leading MS clinics will utilize all aspects of the Octave® Solution including Biomarker, Imaging, and Clinical Insights Programs

September 06, 2023 09:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time

MENLO PARK, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Octave® Bioscience, Inc., a leading precision care company that delivers a new standard for managing multiple sclerosis (MS) and other neurodegenerative diseases, announced today that it plans to conduct an observational, real-world study with Biogen (Nasdaq: BIIB) as the sponsor. The study will utilize the Octave® Precision Care Solution (Octave® Solution) to evaluate 150 patients with MS at the Rocky Mountain MS Clinic, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's (OMRF) MS Center of Excellence, and Orlando Health MS Comprehensive Care Center. Octave's Solution provides neurologists and their patients with quantitative, objective metrics to facilitate informed care and shared decision making to provide a more personalized MS care approach.

"We believe this study will illustrate the power of the full Octave Solution - insights from biological, radiographic, and clinical phenotype tools - to create a dynamic, longitudinal perspective of a patient with MS," said William Hagstrom, Octave's Founder and Chief Executive Officer.

"The initiation of this study marks an important milestone as we work with one of the leading companies in MS and neuroscience to obtain deeper insights about patients and their treatments, and ultimately enable improved care for these patients."

Octave's Solution provides the industry's first set of measurement tools that accurately and objectively measure disease activity, progression, and severity, allowing for better management of complex and high-cost neurodegenerative diseases, such as MS. It includes the first and only multivariate blood test to measure MS Disease Activity (MSDA), enhanced MRI analytics and protocols, and a digital clinical program that actively and passively tracks patients day-to-day and connects them with real-time access to expert MS nurse practitioners.

"We are pleased to bring together two pioneering organizations to evaluate multi-modal care for people living with MS," said Lee Gervitz, PhD, Vice President and Head of North America Medical Affairs at Biogen. "Our team at Biogen looks forward to working with Octave and the participating clinics to pursue our shared goal of improving patient outcomes."

The first patients in this study are expected to be enrolled by Fall 2023. The study is expected to be conducted for 12 months following patient enrollment.

The objectives of the study:

1. To compare disease activity in blood samples of patients with relapsing MS treated with different disease modifying therapies via the MSDA score

2. To characterize divergent radiographic trajectories obtained via MRIs processed using Octave's enhanced imaging analysis
3. To evaluate patients' self-reported symptoms like depression, anxiety, mobility, and emotional state using Octave's clinical insights program
4. To compare ongoing health metrics of patients obtained via wearable technology
5. To compare the number of notifiable events among participants on different MS treatments documented by an Octave Nurse Care Partner over the course of the study.

"We have been working with the Octave Solution for some time, and the impact it has had on our practice has been significant," said John F. Foley, MD, Founder of Rocky Mountain MS Clinic. "The data supporting the MSDA test alone is revolutionary, and the full solution will further enable unprecedented insight into our patients."

"As MS specialists, we strive to provide the best care while advancing the understanding of this devastating disease," said Gabriel Pardo, MD, Director of the OMRF MS Center of Excellence. "Octave's Solution offers a robust comprehensive assessment of an MS patient's evolution in a way we have not had available before, and we are thrilled to be contributing to this important scientific research."

"Octave is creating a new paradigm of precision care for neurodegenerative disease," said Amy Gutierrez, MD, FAAN, neurologist at the Orlando Health MS Comprehensive Care Center. "For those of us who have been researching and treating MS for decades, it is a promising step forward for us and, most importantly, for our patients."

About Octave® Bioscience, Inc.

Octave Bioscience is a commercial stage precision-medicine company delivering a new paradigm of care for multiple sclerosis and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Octave's Precision Care Solution is the industry's first set of measurement tools that accurately and objectively measure disease activity, progression, and severity, allowing for better management of complex and high-cost neurodegenerative diseases, starting with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The Octave Solution includes the first and only multivariate blood test to measure MS Disease Activity, enhanced MRI analytics and protocols, and a clinical care program that tracks and connects patients with MS nurse practitioners in real time. By combining and analyzing multiple biological and contextual layers of data, delivering longitudinal and holistic perspectives of each patient, and revealing insights at population levels, the Octave Solution addresses unmet needs across the entire ecosystem of care, from patients and providers to pharma and payers. Octave Bioscience, Inc. is currently collaborating with leading clinics, payers, and pharma companies across the country.

Importance of MS Awareness

Lexi Collins, Social Work Student Intern

As you may know, Multiple Sclerosis is a complex and often misunderstood autoimmune disease that affects millions of people worldwide. The importance of raising awareness about MS cannot be overstated. Not only does awareness help prevent misdiagnoses, but it also plays a crucial role in advancing research toward finding a cure. Misdiagnoses and misconceptions about MS are unfortunately common.

In a survey of over 5000 people conducted by MultipleSclerosis.net, last updated in 2022, it found that 66% of MS patients saw 3+ health care providers before being diagnosed with MS. This can be detrimental to patients as early treatment can make a big difference in the progression of the disease.

A misconception with massive implications is who is able to get MS. MS is commonly mistaken as a disease only affecting white people. This could not be further from the truth. A study in 2022 showed that the risk of MS was 47% higher in African Americans than any other group (Harmon, 2023). The aggression and progression of the disease are experienced by black Americans significantly more than white Americans, which could be due to underdiagnoses and less response to medications and treatments (Harmon, 2023).

This is why promoting MS awareness is important. Early detection and treatment can make a big difference in one's experience with the disease. Spreading this awareness in the health care profession is essential. It is also important to advocate for better support after educating the public on the disease to make for a better world for those living with MS.

So, what can *you* do to help spread MS awareness?

1. **Share your story and learn from other's stories.** There is an MS community forum where you can start or contribute to a discussion involving living with MS:
<https://multiplesclerosis.net/forums>.
2. **Join a patient registry.** By participating in a registry, you provide important data to researchers and health care professionals that can aid in understanding the disease and finding better treatment and, hopefully in the future, a cure. Here's one:
<https://www.narcoms.org/>
3. **Support MS Organizations Like Us!** Participating in our events and contributing your experiences to us help us bring awareness to the community surrounding you. I have made a survey to get your feedback, so that you can be involved in our community. This survey takes about 5-8 mins, and feel free to share (or not share) anything you are comfortable with! Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/X9cu6RfYYm>. Thank you!

Craft Day, Wednesday, November 8, 11am-1pm

Join us to make a holiday craft or come to visit and have lunch.

Rsvp 812-423-5943



Tuesday, December 5, 12:00 – 2:00pm

TSMSA will offer an informal Educational Session at the TMSMA office, 971 S. Kenmore Dr.

A Clinical Education Manager will offer information and answer questions on Ocrevus.

Also, you will be able to learn about health insurance options and how health insurance changes may affect your coverage and treatment costs.

Please RSVP by December 1st to TMSMA 812-423-5943 / 1-866-514-4312.

Lunch will be provided by Just Rennie's! Limited space available.