



PROGRESSIVE MS ALLIANCE

PROGRESSIVE M-S HAS IMPACTED US IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. MY WIFE JEAN WAS DIAGNOSED WITH SECONDARY PROGRESSIVE M-S AND IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SHE BECAME QUADRIPELEGIC. THE FUTURE'S NOT BRIGHT. IT'S A PROGRESSIVE ILLNESS, PROGRESSIVE M-S. IT'S DEGENERATIVE. WHEN IT COMES TO M-S IT IS SOMETHING I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN IN MY LIFE. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A DAY WHEN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WASN'T TAKING SOMETHING AWAY FROM SOMEONE I LOVED. SHE BECAME NONVERBAL, SHE SUFFERED COGNITIVE DECLINE, SHE RECEIVES ALL HER NUTRITION THROUGH A FEEDING TUBE. MY FATHER WAS DIAGNOSED BEFORE I WAS BORN AND HIS M-S PROGRESSED VERY RAPIDLY AND HE PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS YOUNG. WELL, THE PROGRESSIVE M-S ALLIANCE HAS BECOME AN AMAZING FORCE IN THE WORLD, TO KNOW THAT THERE'S A BODY, A WORLDWIDE BODY WORKING TOWARDS GETTING A CURE OR JUST WORKING ON PROGRESSIVE M-S YOU FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE WORKING WITH YOU, IT'S NOT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT ALONE. WELL, THE ALLIANCE HAS TO ACCOMPLISH AN EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE M-S. IT'S QUITE A LONELY DISEASE BECAUSE FIRSTLY NO ONE KNOWS WHAT OCCURS. THERE IS NO CURE. I THINK FOCUSING PEOPLE'S MINDS AND BRINGING TOGETHER THE SOCIETIES, BRINGING TOGETHER TECHNICAL ACADEMICS TO FOCUS ON THE AREA, IS ANOTHER REALLY GOOD ACHIEVEMENT. IT FIRST REPRESENTED HOPE TO ME AND NOW IT'S DEMONSTRATING PROGRESS. THE GOAL OF THIS NETWORK IS TO DEVELOP A NEW M-R-I OUTCOME MEASURE THAT CAN BE USED IN PHASE TWO CLINICAL TRIALS. IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL, IT'LL BE POSSIBLE TO DO MUCH SHORTER, SMALLER, LESS-EXPENSIVE TRIALS TO SEE IF DRUGS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO WORK OR NOT. IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXPERIENCE, ACTUALLY THE FIRST TIME IN THE GLOBAL M-S MOVEMENT'S EXPERIENCE, THAT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE AGREED TOGETHER TO FUND RESEARCH BUT ALSO TO DECIDE ON RESEARCH TOGETHER. AND IT'S BY HAVING A CLEAR FOCUS ON PRIORITIES AND BRINGING THE RESOURCE AND THE FUNDING TOGETHER THAT WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH QUICKER PROGRESS TOGETHER THAN WE COULD EVER MAKE APART. I'D LIKE POTENTIAL DONORS TO KNOW THAT THIS IS FOR REAL, THAT WE ARE DOING SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE AND WE ARE TACKLING THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN M-S AND THAT THE PEOPLE THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE HAVE THE ABILITY TO DELIVER BUT THEY NEED THEIR SUPPORT TO DO SO. FIRST OF ALL, WE CAN ALL MAKE A GIFT, NO MATTER HOW BIG OR HOW SMALL, IT ALL MATTERS, IT ALL CONTRIBUTES, IT ALL MAKES IT MOVE FASTER. WHAT I WANT MOST FOR THE FUTURE IS FOR THIS STORY TO HAVE A HAPPY ENDING SO THAT OTHER FAMILIES WILL NEVER HAVE TO EXPERIENCE WHAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH. THE FUTURE WHERE WE TALK ABOUT PROGRESSIVE M-S IN THE PAST TENSE.