

# Health Awareness

## New Medicines Offer Hope For Those With Parkinson's Disease

(NAPSA)—Each year, approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a motor system disorder resulting from the loss of dopamine-producing brain cells. The incidence increases with age.

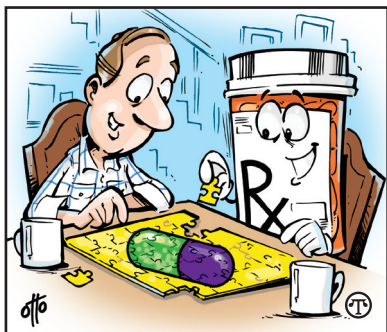
While the average age of onset is 61, 40 percent of those with Parkinson's disease are under the age of 60, placing them squarely in the workforce. According to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, one-third of employed individuals lose their jobs within a year of a diagnosis. Worldwide, the number of men and women with Parkinson's disease is expected to double in the next 25 years.

Signs of the disease can vary widely. The most common physical symptoms include tremor, or shakiness or trembling in the hands, arms, legs, jaw and face; rigidity of the muscles; slowness of movement or difficulty starting to move; and problems with balance and coordination.

Fortunately, America's biopharmaceutical research companies are currently developing 36 medicines to help those suffering from Parkinson's disease. All the medicines are either in clinical trials or awaiting review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. They include:

- Gene therapies that target specific areas in the brain;
- Cell therapy that uses a patient's own cells to reverse effects of the disease;
- New delivery mechanisms of currently approved treatments, including a transdermal patch and an intranasal formulation;
- Medicines to treat a motor function disorder associated with Parkinson's disease treatment.

Researching and developing new medicines remains a risky



**Researching new medicines can be a challenging and lengthy process.**

investment and lengthy process—costing, on average, \$1.2 billion and taking 10–15 years to bring a new medicine to patients. But novel therapies make a difference to patients, offering progress in situations where there was previously little hope.

“These new medicines now being developed to fight Parkinson's disease are the very essence of what America's biopharmaceutical research companies do every day,” said John J. Castellani, president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). “Using cutting-edge science, medicine makers are developing innovative health care solutions that help patients live healthier, better lives. These medicines represent more than hope, they are tangible proof of the progress being made in the fight against this terrible disease.”

For more information on how innovative medicines help to save lives, visit [www.innovation.org](http://www.innovation.org). For information on the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, visit [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org). For information on ensuring the flow of medicines during public health emergencies, visit [www.rxresponse.org](http://www.rxresponse.org).