Each year the MS Society, thanks to your donations, funds approximately $10 million in research to support studies that investigate all aspects of MS - both biological and clinical.

Research here in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan MS Clinical Research Chair announced at the U of S, January 26th. Renowned MS researcher **Dr. Michael Levin** will take up the position for a seven year term beginning in March, 2017 where he will lead a team of researchers, clinicians and students to focus on identifying causes of MS while developing new and improved treatments. Dr. Levin's research has focused on the relationship between viruses, auto-antibodies and acquired DNA mutations as potential causes of MS.

Dr. Ilia Poliakov, MS neurologist, was appointed as the director of the Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Centre in November of 2016. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Poliakov has interests in medical teaching; as well as research into clinical informatics (big data) and health quality outcomes.

Dr. Katherine Knox of the University of Saskatchewan is leading an interdisciplinary team of physiotherapy specialists, community health providers and people living with MS to address wellness through a web-based physiotherapy program for people with MS with moderate to severe disability. The study will assess the adherence, acceptability and safety of the web-based exercise program in forty-five people living with MS over six months.

Dr. Charity Evans, also from the University of Saskatchewan, is leading the first study in Canada to determine the impact of a Pilates program for those living with MS. In collaboration with community co-investigator Jana Danielson, owner of multidisciplinary health and wellness studio Lead Integrated Health Therapies, Dr. Evans will conduct a 12-week single-blinded, randomized controlled study in thirty people living with MS to evaluate the effects of two 50-minutes Pilates classes twice weekly, plus weekly 1-hour massage therapy, compared to massage therapy alone.

Dr. Valerie Verge who is researching Remyelination at the Cameco MS Neuroscience Research Centre in Saskatoon, has been successful in improving the nervous system's self-repair mechanism in rats with spinal cord injury by briefly reducing the amount of oxygen for breathing and/or using short bursts or electrical stimulation. She and her team will now test these two techniques on rats with an MS-like disease, to see if it can boost the spinal cord's ability to repair nerve and myelin damage.

"As the largest funder of MS research in Canada, the MS Society is incredibly proud to see the acceleration of MS research continuing to grow in Saskatchewan. The establishment of the MS Clinical Research Chair is a monumental step in building additional clinical care, resources and most importantly hope for those living with MS." - Erin Kuan, President of the MS Society of Canada - Saskatchewan Division

For further updates or information, contact our provincial office at 1-800-268-7582 or visit our website at www.mssociety.ca