



# Pediatric MS

November 2006

The National Pediatric MS Center at Stony Brook University Medical Center

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## Stony Brook Center at the forefront of MS care

**T**hese are very hopeful and exciting times in the world of adult and pediatric multiple sclerosis. During an international MS meeting in Madrid this September, researchers shared their biomedical discoveries and clinical research findings. For adults with MS, three different oral therapies are being tested for clinical use. Stony Brook will be enrolling adult MS patients into one of these studies by year's end.



Dr. Lauren Krupp

For children with MS, a special symposium was held to discuss recent findings from throughout the world. We presented our experience with 200 children using recently developed international definitions of MS. This classification system, when combined with biomedical discoveries, will improve application of biomedical discoveries to pediatric MS patient care.

In our own Center's biomedical research program with kids with MS, we are using recently acquired support from the Montel Williams Foundation to collaborate with a basic scientist experienced in proteomics, the technique used to identify the earliest biomarkers of MS. Some preliminary data should be available by the end of the year. Our findings will be used to apply for additional research support to expand our study of 100 individuals with MS.

In another step forward in biomedical research, our group has initiated studies to visualize stem cells using novel brain imaging methods. In children and adults with MS who are seen within our clinical practice, we will be doing MRI studies identifying stem cell activity in areas affected by MS. Understanding how stem cells occur naturally within the lesions of patients can promote ways to repair the damage caused by MS.

MS can be a devastating disease. However, our clinical and research team continues to work with scientists and clinicians to make life better for people living with the disease. We are also expanding our understanding to prevent MS from developing and repair the injury that causes symptoms and disability.



# Double the adventure!

Summer 2006 welcomed two sessions of the National Pediatric MS Center Teen Adventure Retreat. Thirty-nine teens with MS from the United States and Canada met at the Canonicus Retreat Center in Exeter, Rhode Island for fun and adventure in a beautiful setting.

The excitement began as kids greeted old friends and new, including teens they'd met in internet-based chat rooms. While parents had the opportunity to meet each other, the

campers quickly settled into their rooms and the fun began with introductions and ice breaking activities.

Access-2-Adventure, a RI-based organization, provided programming for the weekend once again. Activities included a low ropes course for team building, a high ropes course, whale watch, harbor cruise, kayaking, swimming, drumming circle and campfire complete with marshmallows and ghost stories. Campers and staff shared their musical talents, including one volunteer who brought her harp.

Even after the teens went home, the friendships continued to flourish. Each camper left with extra "gear" (compliments of a generous donor) including a camp t-shirt, backpack, and a CD with photos taken during the retreat.

Air transportation was provided by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of the US and Canada. Stony Brook staff members were assisted by volunteers from the Society throughout the sessions.



Promises to return next summer filled the air as the tired campers headed to the airport on Monday morning.



## Be a Champion for Charity:

**SHOP FOR A GREAT CAUSE: WEDNESDAY 11/29 TO SUNDAY 12/3**

The Champions For Charity Holiday Shopping Benefit is the perfect opportunity for you to select those perfect holiday gifts--and help support our Center. During the Benefit, when you do your holiday shopping at the Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza shopping centers on Long Island, 25% of your purchases will be donated to the National Pediatric MS Center.

Shopping from out of town? A complimentary personal shopper is available to help you. Please call Danielle at 516-627-2277 for all your shopping needs.

To register for the Champion Card (which is necessary to make your purchases) or to get further information visit [championsforcharity.org](http://championsforcharity.org) or call 516-627-2277.

**The ShoeBox** will be hosting a special shopping day for the National Pediatric MS Center on Wednesday, November 29th. Please stop by for refreshments as you do your Holiday Shopping at the Americana.





## LOCAL HEROES

Special thanks to Ruth Kotcher and the ladies of the Five Towns on Long Island who hosted a successful Card Party at the Lawrence Country Club in August and raised more than \$11,000!

### Way to go ladies!

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## SUMMER SOIREE A SUCCESS

### \$210,000 raised to fight pediatric MS at July event

More than 300 delighted guests dined on exquisite food, danced to lively music, won wonderful raffle and silent auction gifts, and heard Dr. Lauren Krupp speak about recent research advances in pediatric MS. The evening featured a special memorial tribute to Arthur Stapler, a young man whose life was an inspiration to all.

Our heartfelt thanks to the hard-working committee (pictured above) who pulled off such a summer success when most said "it couldn't be done." And, special thanks to Body Rock Entertainment (DJ), Main Event (photo giveaways), Nathan Schwartzbaum (video), Hy Goldberg (photographer), Michael Stapler (illustrations) and Janine Dion at the beautiful Crest Hollow Country Club. **Thanks to all who came and enjoyed!**

### Contact the National Pediatric MS Center

The National Pediatric MS Center is a unique multidisciplinary clinical and research program located within Stony Brook University Medical Center, one of the world's leading research institutions. The Center was the first of its kind in the United States exclusively committed to the care of children and adolescents with MS.

**Our mission:** We are committed to improving the lives of children with multiple sclerosis and advancing a research program that will benefit all individuals with MS.

**Phone:** (631) 444-8096 **Web:** [www.pediatricmscenter.org](http://www.pediatricmscenter.org)

**Mail:** Stony Brook University Medical Center  
HSC T12-020, Stony Brook, NY 11794

#### Staff

Lauren Krupp, M.D., Director  
Anita Belman, M.D., Pediatric Neurologist  
William MacAllister, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist  
Maria Milazzo, R.N. CPNP  
Dawn Madigan, B.S. R.N.  
Jo Biederman, Director of Development

#### Board of Advisors

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**MS TOOK HIS SON'S LIFE. SO MICHAEL STAPLER IS HELPING US FIND A CURE.**

You can help, too. Michael's lovely watercolors (above) have been professionally printed on high-quality notecards with matching envelopes. A set of 10 is just \$25, and all proceeds go towards the National Pediatric MS Center at Stony Brook.

To purchase a set, or to support the Center in other ways, please contact Jo Biederman at (631) 444-8096. Thank you!

**YES, I WANT TO FIND A CURE FOR PEDIATRIC MS.**

*Please consider an end-of-year holiday gift to help our Center. We wish you a happy, healthy New Year!*

- Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ set(s) of notecards at \$25.
- I would like to make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for:
  - Research
  - Clinic
  - Teen adventure sponsorship (\$2000)



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **SBF-NATIONAL PEDIATRIC MS CENTER**

Please charge my \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation to (circle one) Mastercard Visa Amex Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. PLEASE RETURN TO:**

Johanna Biederman, Director of Development  
 National Pediatric MS Center, Stony Brook University Medical Center, HSC T12-020, Stony Brook, NY 11794