SUPPORTING
MORE THAN 1 MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR
THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

National Parkinson Foundation Fact Sheet

Founded in 1957, the National Parkinson Foundation (NPF) is the only organization with a singular focus of improving the quality of Parkinson's care through research, education and outreach. We continue to bring help and hope to this generation of the estimated one million individuals in the United States, four to six million worldwide, who are living with Parkinson's disease (PD). Here are some of the highlights of our organization:

→ NPF has funded more than $180 million in research and support services to improve the lives of people with Parkinson's. We continue to be a major funder of research programs, such as our Quality Improvement Initiative, part of the Parkinson's Outcomes Project, designed to change the course of the disease.

→ NPF Centers of Excellence, at top medical institutes, comprise the first international network to focus on how to improve care delivered to Parkinson's patients. The network includes 39 Centers of Excellence that deliver care to more than 50,000 Parkinson's patients.

→ NPF Chapters, throughout the United States, provide access to local resources and services, such as support groups, exercise and wellness classes, education programs and more.

→ NPF Programs touch more than one million people a year through our U.S. chapters, support groups, patient conferences and our online resource, Parkinson.org.

→ NPF helps people with Parkinson's every day through our popular "Ask the Doctor" online forum, our series of free educational manuals that are distributed to patients and families around the world and through our national Helpline, 1-800-4PD-INFO (473-4636).

→ Many of today's leading scientists in the field of PD research received their initial funding through a NPF grant. Among the accomplishments of NPF-supported research:

- Genetic research that led to discovery of the importance of the alpha-synuclein gene in PD.
- Research that led to the identification of novel pathways in the basal ganglia that are now targets for drug development efforts.

→ NPF has trained more than a thousand medical and health care professionals in "best practices" for Parkinson's patient care through our signature professional training initiative, Allied Team Training for Parkinson (ATTP). ATTP prepares allied health care professionals to deliver integrated specialized care in a team setting to individuals with PD.

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