



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence

February 13, 2020

TO: CMSC Scholarship Committee

RE: Personal Statement

Dear Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers Education Committee:

I am pleased to submit this application for a scholarship to the 2020 CMSC Annual Meeting.

In 2017, I joined the Multiple Sclerosis research team at the VA Portland Health Care System as a program manager and study site monitor for the multi-site, phase 2, randomized controlled trial "Lipoic acid for treatment of progressive MS." In my work in MS research, I have helped launch and conduct this trial studying the effects daily oral lipoic acid has on the change in walking speed, cognitive outcomes, and brain atrophy in people with progressive MS. I currently have an abstract being considered for a CMSC 2020 poster titled "Challenges and Opportunities for Recruitment into Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Trials: Lessons from lipoic acid." If accepted, I will present the poster at the poster session.

Through my work on this particular study and my involvement with other MS studies at the VA, I have grown to care deeply about this population and have a special interest in researching effective treatments. Attending CMSC would allow me to interact with a variety of providers and researchers, helping to expand my knowledge of the current state of MS research and connect me to researchers with similar career goals.

As a US Federal employee at the VA Portland Health Care System, there are very limited funds to support my attendance of your respected educational program. I would greatly appreciate your consideration of me for a CMSC scholarship. I am excited about the opportunity to attend this informative conference and look forward to discussing what I have learned with my colleagues and planning future research collaborations.

Sincerely,

Carin Waslo