

Learn more to help ‘deliver the cure’ for MDA



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Are you a runner who would love to help “Deliver the Cure” by participating in a marathon? If so, Team Momentum may be for you. Team Momentum is the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s only endurance program, created to empower individuals of all athletic abilities to train for a full or half marathon and dedicate their miles to help accelerate research, care, support and services for MDA families. This life-changing program provides a world-class customized training program and a committed community of MDA coaches, team members and families who inspire you to reach your personal goals.

We invite you and your branch to join us and help advance MDA’s efforts to free individuals—and the families who love them—from the harm of muscular dystrophy, ALS and related life-threatening diseases that severely weaken muscle strength and mobility. Contact NALC Headquarters after registering to participate in MDA Team Momentum to ensure individual income generated is credited to your branch.

“With MDA Team Momentum, you’ll defy your personal limits.”

With MDA Team Momentum, you’ll defy your personal limits and receive VIP benefits:

- The opportunity to meet MDA’s courageous families to inspire you.
- Free entry and access into sold-out, world-renowned races.
- Access to MDA’s personal certified coaches and a world-class customized half or full marathon training program.
- A committed community of support from teammates, volunteers and mentors.
- Training, race gear and race weekend VIP amenities.
- Easy-to-use tools, including a welcome packet, a fundraising page, a Facebook app and social media tips.

Visit mdateam.org to join MDA Team Momentum for an upcoming race and make it the most meaningful race yet.

Team Momentum and other NALC fundraising efforts have had an impact on research in 2016. Although breakthroughs don’t happen overnight, your fundraising helps MDA fund research that focuses on collaboration and supports the world’s best scientists and projects that will make an impact across all the MD diseases. Our efforts

help support the more than \$17 million in new research just this year alone. Since September, we have helped fund 22 research grants and two developmental grants. MDA funds only the highest-rated promising projects after all applications are reviewed and scored by a team of 40 of the world’s leading clinicians and scientists who specialize in neuromuscular disease and also serve in volunteer roles for MDA.

Some may ask why a cure has not been found. MDA states: “There are many neuromuscular diseases, and for some diseases there are even different types. Because there are so many, we will have to find many cures—not just one. We’re going to have to treat the different diseases and disease types in many different ways. We can always use more funding to speed the search for cures, as it will allow us to fund more people to work on the various problems. But funding isn’t everything. We also are limited by the speed at which science advances and how our knowledge about the different diseases moves forward.”

But there has been much success to build upon. MDA has been involved in research into basic muscle and nerve biology since 1950, when virtually nothing was known about how muscles were formed or functioned, even in non-diseased tissues. Since then, thousands of scientific papers have been published explaining how the tissues work and what goes wrong in neuromuscular disease. MDA funding supported the research that led to the discovery of the genetic causes of dozens of diseases, starting with the discovery of the dystrophin gene in 1986. Without this knowledge, there was less hope for curing diseases.

MDA’s research program has been so successful over the years that MDA started the translational research program in 2004 to help accelerate therapy development based on these results. This program attracted so much interest that it was expanded in 2009 by the formation of MDA Venture Philanthropy (MVP), which operates with a more venture capital-like approach. MVP is exclusively focused on the funding and commercialization of treatments and cures for neuromuscular diseases, and it hopes to increase the speed of moving drugs through clinical development.

MDA’s fingerprints are on nearly every major advance in neuromuscular disease research, with MDA-sponsored research having resulted in breakthroughs for treating diseases, and in increasing survival and quality of life.