Our expertise

Novartis has been a leader in neuroscience for more than 60 years and our work in multiple sclerosis (MS), where our goal is to change the lives of people with this devastating disease, is a key area of activity. We are committed to working with the MS community to provide advanced therapeutics and novel solutions to people living with MS, and we seek to develop therapies and programs that address all aspects of health by understanding the needs of people with MS and their healthcare providers.

Over the long-term, our strategy is to research and develop new treatment options to offer the right treatment to the right patient at the right time, to meet patients’ needs at every stage of disease with innovative and targeted drugs.

Novartis MS portfolio

Novartis is leading the way in delivering and researching ground-breaking therapies to help address the high unmet medical need in MS.

Marketed products

- **Gilenya® (fingolimod)**: is a once-daily oral disease-modifying therapy (DMT) approved to treat relapsing forms of MS. Gilenya is the only oral DMT to impact the course of relapsing MS (RMS) with high efficacy across four key measures of RMS disease activity (relapses, MRI lesions, brain shrinkage (brain volume loss) and disability progression).

- **Extavia® (interferon beta-1b for subcutaneous injections)**: approved to treat people with clinically isolated syndrome (a first neurologic episode that lasts at least 24 hours) and the two forms of RMS: relapsing remitting MS (RRMS) and secondary-progressive MS (SPMS).

Investigational medicines and therapeutic targets

- **Fingolimod**: currently also being investigated for the treatment of pediatric MS and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy.

- **BAF312 (siponimod)**: second generation, selective sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor for patients with SPMS currently in a Phase III study in more than 30 countries.

- The IL-17 pathway is also being explored as a novel therapeutic target in MS.

Our commitment

Commitment to the MS Community

Novartis is proud to support the MS community through several initiatives that aim to raise awareness of MS and the unique experiences of people living with the disease, and encourage dialogue amongst members of the MS community:

International MS Patient Summit

- Novartis is proud to have hosted three International MS Patient Summits, where leading MS patient organizations, advocates and journalists met to discuss topics of particular relevance to people with MS.
- Themes included ‘Living and Working with MS’, ‘Young People with MS: Staying Active and Interactive’ and ‘Protecting the Brain Today for a Better Tomorrow’.
- The upcoming fourth International MS Patient Summit, co-hosted by AISM (Italian MS Society) and Novartis will take place in Rome during May 2015, and is focused on patient rights, influencing the direction of healthcare decision-making and the ‘Expert Patient’.

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Believe & Achieve
- Novartis has proudly teamed up with the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) and joined their Believe and Achieve program as a corporate partner, providing employment placements for young people living with MS. So far interns have been hired in Novartis offices in Greece, Italy and Portugal, with more to follow. For more information see [www.emsp.org](http://www.emsp.org).

Living Like You
- The Novartis-supported Living Like You ([www.livinglikeyou.com](http://www.livinglikeyou.com)) is an online community that features content detailing the realities of life with MS by offering insights from people who live with the disease.
- Providing access to relevant information online is important as people with MS are up to three times more likely to be online compared to people with other diseases⁸. In fact, MS is mentioned online every 13 seconds⁷.
- Life hacks are creative ways to make everyday tasks simpler. And for people living with MS, simplicity is key. For 365 days, we’re offering new #MSLifeHacks every single day at [www.LivingLikeYou.com](http://www.LivingLikeYou.com).

Social Media Engagement
- Images and videos of interest to the MS community are also posted regularly to the Novartis Pinterest page ([http://pinterest.com/novartis/](http://pinterest.com/novartis/)).
- This Pinterest page adds to the ongoing dialogue on Twitter and Facebook pages: [http://twitter.com/Novartis](http://twitter.com/Novartis) and [http://www.facebook.com/novartis](http://www.facebook.com/novartis).

Research and Partnering Commitment to MS

Novartis is also committed to working with leaders in the field of MS to advance neurological assessments in MS, contribute to ongoing education and recognize the work of the MS research community.

ASSESS-MS
- ASSESS MS is an innovative tool in development that has the potential to profoundly change how motor dysfunction and disability progression is assessed in patients with MS.
- It is currently being developed through collaboration between Novartis, leading experts in MS in Basel, Amsterdam and Bern, as well as Microsoft Research.
- ASSESS MS aims to consistently and sensitively quantify an individual’s level of motor dysfunction in a non-invasive and patient friendly manner.
- Automated assessment of motor dysfunction is achieved through standardized capture of movements using the Microsoft Kinect® sensor and subsequent analysis by machine learning and computer vision algorithms currently being developed in the ASSESS-MS project.
- A set of movements based on both the standard neurological examination and activities of daily living is currently being studied in healthy volunteers and >300 MS patients as part of a pilot phase for ASSESS-MS.

MS Nurse PROfessional
- Novartis also supports through an independent educational grant the MS Nurse PROfessional, a European-focused, e-learning training curriculum and foundation course to support the evolving role of MS nurses.
- This initiative is led by the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) in collaboration with the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses (IOMSN) and Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS).
- The program recognizes the significant contributions MS nurses make and aims to address the current inconsistencies that exist across Europe by setting a benchmark for MS nursing practice and nursing across Europe. This will increase the quality of care that people with MS and their families receive as well as unifying nurses across Europe.
- MS Nurse PRO is the first and only European CME Accredited MS Nurse Training Curriculum. It is widely accredited by 6 associations (e.g. the UK Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and International Council of Nurses (ICN)) and endorsed by more than 15 organizations.
References:


