



In this issue...

- Happy New Year!
- WAMS endMS Research and Training Network Award Recipient Announced!
- WAMS Gala Luncheon 2010
- Beauty Is as Beauty Does
- Join Team WAMS at the MS Walk
- WAMS Launch in BC
- MS Research Update: No Effect of Parental Age on Risk of Multiple Sclerosis
- About Multiple Sclerosis
- Keep in Touch

WORD ON WAMS / WAMS YP

Happy New Year!

As a new year begins, we wish all WAMS and WAMS YP members much happiness and success in 2010. We begin the year with renewed commitment to finding a cure for MS and enabling people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life. Thank you for being a part of our efforts to end multiple sclerosis.

WAMS endMS Research and Training Network Award Recipient Announced!



Dr. Cornelia Laule
*Recipient of the WAMS
endMS Research and
Training Network
Transitional Career
Development Award*

We are incredibly pleased to report that a recipient has been chosen for the inaugural Women Against MS (WAMS) endMS Research and Training Network Transitional Career Development Award. Funds raised by WAMS in Ontario fund this \$500,000 grant, which is awarded to an outstanding postdoctoral or clinical fellow to fund the last two years of their postdoctoral study, as well as their first independent MS or MS-related faculty position within a Canadian university or teaching hospital.

The endMS Research and Training Network proudly announces Dr. Cornelia Laule of the University of British Columbia as the recipient of this outstanding award. Dr. Laule focuses her research on developing magnetic resonance (MR) techniques to study the pathology of multiple sclerosis. In receiving this award, Dr. Laule said, "Thanks to the endMS initiative, I am able to continue my career as an MS researcher in Canada. This award will enable me to foster interdisciplinary research, mentor trainees and encourage teamwork between basic scientists and clinicians to bring us closer to ending MS."

Congratulations Dr. Laule!

For more information on the endMS Network, please visit www.endmsnetwork.ca.



Phyllis Yaffe
*Former CEO of
Alliance Atlantis*



Mary Robinson
*First female
President of Ireland
and former United
Nations High
Commissioner for
Human Rights*

*In 2009, over 600 attendees
raised an amazing \$200,000
for the WAMS endMS
Research and Training
Network Transitional Career
Development Award.*

WAMS Gala Luncheon 2010

The WAMS Gala Luncheon will take place on Friday, May 7th at the Royal York Hotel. Last year's event sold out a month in advance with over 600 attendees and raised an amazing \$200,000 for the endMS Research and Training Network Transitional Career Development Award.

This year WAMS honours Phyllis Yaffe, former CEO of Alliance Atlantis, for her personal and professional commitment to ending MS. Phyllis was integral to the creation of WAMS in Ontario and has been its Chair for the past 5 years. Phyllis sits on an extensive number of boards – Cineplex Entertainment, TorStar, Lionsgate Entertainment– and in 2007 was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame.

Keynote Speaker for the luncheon will be President Mary Robinson – first female president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In 2009, President Robinson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the highest civilian honour – by Barack Obama for her significant contributions to the world. She has been named a “Hero and Icon” as one of Time magazine's 2005 top 100 men and women whose “power, talent or moral example is transforming the world.”

To reserve your table or tickets, please contact:

wamsinfo@mssociety.ca or **416-922-6600 ext. 3136**

Individual Tickets: \$200

Table: \$2,000

*VIP Table: **SOLD OUT***



Beauty is as Beauty Does

We are thrilled to announce that Aveda has come on board as a sponsor of the WAMS Gala Luncheon and will be hosting a networking reception later this year!

Aveda was founded in 1978 with the goal of providing beauty industry professionals with high performance, botanically based products that would be better for service providers and their guests, as well as for the planet. Aveda manufactures professional plant-based hair care, skin care, makeup, perfume and lifestyle products. Aveda is available in Aveda salons, spas, and stores throughout Canada.

Join Team WAMS at the MS Walk!



MS WALK
EVERY STEP MATTERS.

Join Team WAMS and WAMS YP as we walk to end MS at the Toronto MS WALK on Sunday, April 18th. Join us for what promises to be a great day, complete with barbeque and a VIP WAMS tent.

Every step matters!

More information about the MS Walk is available at www.mswalks.ca.

To join Team WAMS, please contact Kyla Brierley at (416) 922-6600 ext.3109 or kyla.brierley@mssociety.ca.

WAMS Launch in BC

The British Columbia and Yukon Division is excited to announce the launch of Women Against MS in BC. Their first networking reception will be held on April 15th, 2010 at The Bay in downtown Vancouver, hosted by Anne Klein New York.

Dr. Cornelia Laule will be speaking at this event which promises to be a fabulous evening complete with a fashion show, canapés, and an exclusive discount!



WORD ON WAMS / WAMS YP

AVEDA

Aveda was founded in 1978 with the goal of providing beauty industry professionals with high performance, botanically based products that would be better for service providers and their guests, as well as for the planet



In a population-based Canadian cohort, researchers investigated whether there is any difference in parental age at birth for MS index cases compared to spouse controls.

Canada has one of the highest rates of MS in the world, with three more Canadians diagnosed each day. Canada is a leader in multiple sclerosis research and researchers are developing new treatments for MS while moving closer to finding a cure for this unpredictable, often disabling disease.

*R*esearch Update

No Effect of Parental Age on Risk of Multiple Sclerosis

It is known that advanced maternal or paternal age is associated with the appearance of different diseases in offspring, including chromosomal abnormalities and adult-onset disorders. In a recent study, authors aimed to investigate whether a more advanced parental age was associated with a higher risk of MS in offspring.

In a population-based Canadian cohort, researchers investigated whether there is any difference in parental age at birth for MS index cases compared to spouse controls. Using the longitudinal Canadian database, 5,681 MS index cases and 1,249 spouse controls with complete information on parental dates of birth were identified, thereby allowing a calculation of the maternal and paternal ages at the birth of their children (MS index cases and spouse controls).

No significant difference in maternal or paternal age at birth was found. Researchers conclude that parental age at birth is not associated with susceptibility to MS.

Neuroepidemiology. 2009 Dec 24;34(2):106-109.

*A*bout Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis is the most common disease of the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) among young adults in Canada, affecting an estimated 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians. MS is diagnosed in women three times as often as in men.

While it is most commonly diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 40, MS can occur at any age and has been diagnosed in children as young as three. Symptoms include vision and speech problems, extreme fatigue, lack of balance and coordination, and even paralysis.

Canada has one of the highest rates of MS in the world, with three more Canadians diagnosed each day. Canada is a leader in multiple sclerosis research, and researchers are developing new treatments for MS while moving closer to finding a cure for this unpredictable, often disabling disease.

More information is available at www.mssociety.ca.

*R*eep in touch

Do you have suggestions for this newsletter? Would you like to write an article that would be of interest to our members? Would you like to submit a business ad for an upcoming edition?

Please submit any WAMS-related questions, comments, or suggestions to wamsinfo@mssociety.ca.