



Dear friends, colleagues, and partners in the global MS community,

World MS Day unites all of us who care about understanding multiple sclerosis (MS) and improving the lives of those living with this chronic condition. Biogen Idec and its partners are involved with World MS Day activities in more than a dozen countries and, to help mark this day, I would like to reflect on how far we have come in the treatment of MS and how we should define success moving forward.

When I began my career in neurology about 20 years ago, success in MS was rare. In many cases, we could only provide a diagnosis. As a first year resident at Massachusetts General Hospital, I saw a young woman with typical relapsing-remitting MS. There was little we could do at that time, but we did treat her relapses with steroids and she seemed to respond well. But by the time I was a third year resident, she had advanced to secondary-progressive MS and required a wheelchair. A year later, I saw this patient again when I happened to be in the emergency room. She suffered from severe depression and was cognitively impaired. It was a sad and frustrating moment as I thought of her, her family, and her friends. This was not success.

Fortunately, in the mid-1990's, we entered a new era in the treatment of MS with biologic therapies that were able to slow the progression of the disease in many patients. We finally could impact the speed with which this disease claimed individuals' abilities. It was a significant step forward, but we still expected relapses, lesions, and physical and cognitive decline to come.

After joining Biogen Idec in 1998, I had the opportunity to be involved in the development of a therapy that helped change my definition of success in the treatment of MS patients. This was an experience of great professional and personal satisfaction and we continue to see the unique benefits of this research unfold. We should continue to expect even more in the fight against MS. For example, researchers are exploring how the human body might repair damage to myelin in the central nervous system. Imagine that as a definition of success: Fixing the damage from an MS relapse. That is where the future of research is headed and I hope it will yield results to redefine my definition of success yet again.

It is an exciting time in MS care and there are ample opportunities for the redefinition of success:

- More therapies, administered in more ways are on the way;
- Work is progressing on genetic clues that may allow us to target therapies more effectively;
- New pathways to target new MS therapies continue to emerge; and
- Understanding of the disease is constantly evolving.



Whether you are a researcher, health care professional, patient advocate, a person living with MS, or know someone who is, we all want the same thing. The ultimate definition of success: a cure.

Within Biogen Idec we are redefining success in MS by delivering science-based solutions from disease diagnosis to disease resolution. We recognize that there is not just one answer or one way or one treatment. And we acknowledge that we can not do this work alone. We will continue to partner with industry colleagues, MS societies and patient organizations, academic researchers, physicians and nurses, and people with MS. We will build on our record of delivering innovative treatments, unparalleled patient and physician services, and groundbreaking research to ensure that we continue to raise your expectations and enhance your definition of success.

Biogen Idec is proud to support World MS Day. We are honored to join you in serving the MS community and remain committed to redefining success in MS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alfred Sandrock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alfred Sandrock, MD, PhD  
Senior Vice President, Neurology Research & Development  
Biogen Idec, Inc.