Greetings!

As spring sweeps in, we at the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois are very excited to introduce you to our new name and logo. Starting in June 2016, this organization will be known as Conquer Myasthenia Gravis (or Conquer MG for short.)

This update reflects our active, forward-thinking, patient-centered focus. Even the new graphic reflects our desire to wipe out this rare autoimmune disease. The tagline reinforces the fact that we serve MG patients beyond Illinois borders.

Please be assured that only our name is changing. Since our establishment in 1972, we have been committed to:

- Offering top-notch MG resources, including our spring patient seminar
- Raising MG awareness with your help. Join us for the 4th Annual Strides Against MG Walk!
- Funding research, with the 2016-17 award recipient to be announced in May

Hoping your myasthenia gravis will be conquered,

MGF of Illinois Executive Director

Spring Patient Seminar

Guest Speaker
Julie Rowin, MD, ABIHM

Functional Medicine Approach to MG:

**Functional Medicine Approach to MG:**

- Understanding the root cause of disease
- Integrating holistic and conventional medicine
- Improving quality of life for MG patients

*NEW DATE & PLACE - one time only* Saturday, May 21 @ St. John Public Library
Understanding the root cause of disease

More and more, words like "inflammation," "leaky gut," and "environmental toxins" are being linked to autoimmune diseases like myasthenia gravis. Join us at the MGF of Illinois Spring Patient Meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital to hear Dr. Julie Rowin discuss a new approach to treating MG.

Dr. Rowin has been a researcher, associate professor, and clinician at Rush University Medical Center and at U of I Chicago. Her focus now is on integrative and functional medicine relating to neurological and autoimmune disorders.

Event is free and includes lunch; donations appreciated. Please register by April 26. Click for details and registration.

Family Fun * Music * Raffle Prizes

Get ready for a family-friendly celebration with bubbles and hula hoops as we walk to support those affected by myasthenia gravis. Costumes and signs welcome!

- Sunday, June 5, 2016, 8am registration & 8:30 start
- Berens Park, Elmhurst, IL
- $30 per walker, $35 on walk day
- $10 per child under age 12

Use our secure registration site BY TUESDAY, MAY 12, to ensure you get a t-shirt in the right size.
Sero-negative MG Research

An April 5, 2016, press release from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University reports that a national study is "helping to determine the incidence of two new antibodies" in MG patients. The study reports that "nearly 900 of the 4,500 patients with myasthenia gravis being followed...are double-negative" [meaning they don't test positive for the more common AChR or MuSK antibodies that indicate a diagnosis of myasthenia gravis]. The study is documenting the incidence of LRP4 and agrin antibodies in this group.

Click to read the full press release.

May: A Month to Meet in Person!

Want to talk to someone who understands the ups and downs of myasthenia gravis? MGF of Illinois sponsors or co-sponsors eight local support groups, and six of them meet in May! Dates are listed on the left; click for details and directions.

Take note that the Northwest Indiana group has a new date and location for May (the July meeting will be back at the Schererville Public Library):

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10am to noon
St. John Branch of Lake County Public Library
9450 Wicker Ave.
St. John, IN 46373