MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FACTS

- Is a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disorder
- Affects people of all ages, genders & ethnicities
- Is more common in women under 40 and men over 60
- Affects 14-20 per 100,000 people
- Causes fluctuating weakness in voluntary muscles
- Affects muscles that control eye movements, eyelids, chewing, swallowing, breathing, coughing and facial expression, as well as the arms and legs

ABOUT US
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CONQUER MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

Conquer MG (formerly known as the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois) has been serving myasthenia gravis patients since 1972. We help MG patients “on the ground” in Illinois, northwest Indiana and southeast Wisconsin. Our online presence has a national – even international – reach.

OUR MISSION
To facilitate the timely diagnosis and optimal care of individuals affected by myasthenia gravis and to improve their lives through programs of patient services, public awareness, medical research, professional education, advocacy and patient care.

Our pillars of service:
- Support
- Education
- Awareness
- Research funding

SERVING THE MG COMMUNITY SINCE 1972

We’re proud of our past - including many years of education programs, research funding since 2010, a local financial support program, and diverse support group connections. We’re excited for a future being shaped by new MG treatments in development and virtual access to resources.

VIKING CHALLENGE FOR MG

The Challenge began in 2013 as the “Strides Against MG Walk” and has evolved as a successful in-person and virtual event to raise awareness and funds. At the event, we recognize an important supporter of the MG community with the Tracy Shackelford MG Service Award.
IN THE NEWS

Conquer MG’s Board Chair Bob Rosecrans and Executive Director Joan Wincentsen were quoted in the February 2022 issue of Brain & Life.

New Myasthenia Gravis Drugs Offer More Options to Patients
https://www.brainandlife.org/articles/new-myasthenia-gravis-drugs-offer-more-options

How to Pay for Myasthenia Gravis Medication
https://www.brainandlife.org/articles/how-to-pay-for-myasthenia-gravis-medication#

RECENT CONQUER MG INITIATIVES

• 2022: Conquer MG shows real life MG with the video interview series Myasthenia Gravis: Finding Strength One Day at a Time
• 2020: We began of address wellness topics for those with myasthenia: MG and nutrition, exercise, and stress management
• 2019: Conquer MG joined MGNet, a consortium of academic institutions, other patient advocacy groups, and biotech/pharma companies, to fund cutting edge MG research.

TALK TO KEY TEAM MEMBERS

Executive Director
Joan Wincentsen – Has held this role since 2013. Joan has first-hand knowledge of MG symptoms, treatments, and (best of all) remission. “The encouragement I received from others to get back to work and the activities I love was invaluable. I want to offer others the same.”

Board Chair
Bob Rosecrans - Holds a PhD in biochemistry and served as a lab director and educator for pathology residents for NorthShore University HealthSystem’s Department of Pathology. Currently semi-retired, he works as a laboratory consultant in the Department of Pathology at Northwest Community Healthcare. “I believe in the mission of Conquer MG and want to help and support members of our community.”