



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL CLINIC FIRST IN UPSTATE NEW YORK TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AFFILIATION WITH NATIONAL MS SOCIETY

*The Multiple Sclerosis Center of Northeastern New York (Latham) becomes
the first clinic in area to meet stringent new standards to
be officially affiliated with the National MS Society*

ALBANY, NY – A diagnosis of MS can be shocking and overwhelming; several questions can come to mind immediately: What will my future hold, will I be able to continue to walk? Where will I turn for advice and help managing my disease? Luckily, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) Upstate New York Chapter is available to assist those living with MS. The chapter provides a wide array of award winning programs to people living with MS, their family members and health care professionals. One of the most common questions the chapter is asked is information about local neurologists who specialize in treating people with MS.

The National MS Society Upstate New York Chapter is proud to announce that the MS Center of Northeastern New York is the first clinic in the area to have met the new, more stringent guidelines for MS clinics to be officially affiliated with the National MS Society being adopted around the country. To be affiliated with the NMSS, a clinic must demonstrate that they provide comprehensive and coordinated expert care, as well as advanced research options, in a comprehensive and coordinated manner for patients with MS.

The MS Center of Northeastern New York has an onsite infusion facility solely for the treatment of MS patients allowing unique social and psychological support with ongoing

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education for patient while receiving treatment. The center's highly skilled staff includes Dr. Keith Edwards who has been involved with MS treatment and research for 30 years and Esther Boorse, RN and MS Specialist, as well as many other dedicated and talented staff nurses and research personnel who provide patients with symptom management support, advocacy, health, education and guidance through the many challenges of MS.

“We are very excited to announce this prestigious affiliation,” said Stephanie Mincer, President and CEO of the Upstate New York Chapter. “Dr. Edwards and the staff at The MS Center of Northeastern New York are leading the way in patient care and MS research as evidenced by meeting these new, very stringent, affiliation standards. We are eager to share the good news with the MS community here and look forward to other MS-focused centers in Upstate New York to become affiliated under the new guidelines.”

Dr. Edwards shares some of the unique aspects of the clinic - “The MS Center of Northeastern New York shares an NIH research grant directed from Mount Sinai on dual treatment for MS, a NMSS research grant with the Brigham and Women's Partners MS Center on genetics in MS, and is closely associated with the Jacobs Neurologic Institute in Buffalo and the New York State MS Consortium. All of the nurses and doctors at the MS Center of Northeastern New York, as well as Dr. William Goodman, the clinic's neuropsychologist and Dr. Francisco Gomez from Ellis Hospital, are slated to attend the Annual Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) meeting in Montreal, Canada. The MS Center, in connection with the National MS Society, sponsors more than a dozen regional patient and doctor educational programs. The MS Center sees new patients daily, regardless of their ability to pay and offers ten active MS research projects, many in cooperation with other MS Centers. The MS Center of Northeastern New York also offers a basic science and social work program and a neuropsychological program to our patients, making this MS Center a “one-stop shop.”

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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The National MS Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS. To fulfill this mission, the Society funds cutting-edge research, drives change through advocacy, facilitates professional education, collaborates with MS organizations around the world, and provides programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives. In 2010 alone, through its national office and 50-state network of chapters, the Society devoted \$159 million to programs and services that assisted more than one million people. To move us closer to a world free of MS, the Society also invested \$37 million to support 325 new and ongoing research projects around the world. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. Join the movement at www.msupstateny.org

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