

# Foreword

Each year thousands of individuals are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). These individuals and the several million already living with the disease face the many uncertainties associated with MS. Fortunately, therapeutic options are available for some individuals with relapsing–remitting forms of the disease. Many patients, however, struggle with loss of function either as a direct or as a secondary result of nervous system damage associated with MS. These patients and their loved ones are asking—“When will we see myelin repair treatments?”

The notion that we might see development of myelin repair treatments is not as far-fetched as it might seem. Since the publication of John Prineas’ seminal work in 1992, we have known that the MS lesion is capable of undergoing natural repair. As elegantly illustrated in this volume, the scientific community has built on this and many other discoveries to expand our knowledge and lay the foundation for a plethora of translational studies.

Today we are poised to see development and testing of the first generation of myelin repair treatments in people with MS. Indeed, we may soon see a world where physicians have the ability to prescribe a combination of treatments that halt inflammation, protect the nervous system from damage, and repair the damage found in MS. Thanks to the global collaborative efforts of the MS research community, this vision is not just blind hope but fast becoming a reality.

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Myelin Repair and Neuroprotection in Multiple Sclerosis

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2013, XIV, 290 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-2217-4