

About the Transverse Myelitis Association

The Transverse Myelitis Association (TMA) is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that supports people who suffer from rare neuro-immune diseases.

What are these rare neuro-immune diseases? Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO), Optic Neuritis (ON), Transverse Myelitis(TM) and Recurrent Transverse Myelitis are immune-mediated disorders of the central nervous system (brain, spinal cord and optic nerves). The disorders occur when a person experiences a sudden acute inflammatory attack in the spine, brain or optic nerve, with symptoms such as weakness, blurry vision, loss of sensation, bladder dysfunction. **These diseases affect individuals of all ages; approximately 25-30% of those affected are children** (depending on the disease).

What is the damage caused? Nerve damage caused by inflammation can cause many problems, which include blurred or lost vision, ongoing pain, sensory loss, bladder dysfunction, weakness resulting in disability and paralysis depending on the extent of the injury.

The goals of the TMA are:

- ✚ To create a comprehensive and dedicated network of patients, researchers and health care professionals focused on providing excellent care
- ✚ To advance our understanding of the causes and the natural history of these diseases
- ✚ To develop new acute and restorative therapies.

Your donations will help the TMA

- ✚ Advocate for its more than 9300 members from every state in the US and from 80 countries around the world
- ✚ Provide seed funding for the establishment of medical centers of excellence dedicated to the study and care of these disorders
- ✚ Fund national and international educational seminars
- ✚ Host quality of life camps for children and families affected by these disorders
- ✚ Educate individuals who live with these disorders and their families so they can better manage their medical care and form strong support networks
- ✚ Support the post-residency training of clinicians through the James T. Lubin Clinician Scientist Fellowship Award

Some highlights...

- ✚ From 2002 to date, the TMA has given over \$470,000 to fund pilot research projects, research centers and clinical training (James T. Lubin Fellowship)
- ✚ The TMA has spent more than \$300,000 to support symposia, camps, and other education programs
- ✚ We support two medical Centers of Excellence– at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and at the University of Texas Southwestern – dedicated to the study of these rare neuro-immunologic disorders