



SUPPORT | EDUCATION | RESEARCH | AWARENESS

Conquer MG extends a special thank you to all caregivers during November National Caregiver Awareness Month



In Person with Marilyn Bill

People with myasthenia gravis are resilient self-advocates of care who become students of this rare disease. Their loved ones join the journey of learning and caregiving in small and large ways. Conquer MG does a lot to support our MG community, and the **caregivers are an important part of this community.**

We spoke with Marilyn Bill, who cared for her dear friend, Wally Wasel, through his struggle with myasthenia gravis. Marilyn and Wally were great friends who traveled and enjoyed life together long before MG struck Wally. Even in Wally's early years with this disease, Marilyn cared for Wally by taking him to his doctor appointments and assuring he had moments of rest when he needed it. As the disease took away more of Wally's mobility, Marilyn set up their home to accommodate his needs and limited mobility. The disease contributed to his death in 2022.

Wally and I had known each other for 50 years. He was a dear friend and someone I cared for very much. We were good friends who lived together. Before Wally's diagnosis, we traveled, visited museums, and went to the theater. We were living a full life and started talking about moving for warmer weather. Our regular activity and plans for the future suddenly changed literally overnight.

Wally went to bed and the next morning he looked gray in the face and his mouth was drooping. I thought he might have had a stroke. We called his primary care doctor and explained what he was experiencing. The doctor couldn't diagnose the issue, but he was sure it wasn't a stroke.

It was about five weeks between the initial myasthenia crisis and the time he started to return to a sense of "normal," but I could see that he still wasn't looking right. It wasn't until he had an eye doctor appointment that he was put on the path to getting a diagnosis. The eye doctor saw what was happening with his eye and asked us to request a blood test for myasthenia gravis—the test was positive.

Wally lived with MG for about six years and while he never experienced remission, he had stretches of time when he felt better. We attended support group meetings to get answers to our questions. Wally's MG didn't become difficult until the last three years of his life. In his most difficult years living with myasthenia gravis, we were back and forth to the hospital with very regular visits to a primary care physician.

Caring for Wally was a labor of love, but I was lucky to have help along the way. I had friends and family nearby so that I could schedule 'me time.' My dogs also helped me get through the emotional challenges of this disease and regular visitors helped break up the day.



CONQUER MG
Conquer Myasthenia Gravis

**UCB announces U.S.
FDA approval of
ZILBRYSQ® (zilucoplan)
for the treatment of
adults with generalized
myasthenia gravis**

Our MG community took note of the recent news regarding the latest therapy options that aim

to reduce the burden of hours-long treatment delivery with IVIG. For those who are responding well to this new treatment, it's a game-changer. But we recognize that many patients are interested in learning more, so here are some questions that have come in from the MG community with answers provided by Dr. Betty Soliven of the University of Chicago School of Medicine and a member of our Medical Advisory Board. [Click here to read more..]



Chicago South and West MG Support Group Special Event!



Join us for a local **SPEAK** event on Myasthenia Gravis

Date: 11/12/2023

Time: 1:00 pm-2:30 pm

Location: Virtual via ZOOM

You're invited to join an Alexion-sponsored educational event hosted by your local **Patient Education Manager, Kathy Logan**, along with a **Myasthenia Gravis Specialist, Andrew Gordon, MD** to learn more about Myasthenia Gravis and a potential treatment option.



Learn

During our discussion, you will learn more about Myasthenia Gravis and a potential treatment option. We'll also highlight the resources Alexion offers to support you in your journey.

We know that living with Myasthenia Gravis can be challenging. We hope to open discussion and provide meaningful education to empower the Myasthenia Gravis patient community.

This event is for anyone who wants to learn more about Myasthenia Gravis.

Register for this event:

Email for Zoom link: info@myastheniagravis.org

This event is intended for U.S. patients and caregivers only.

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MG Support Meetings: Connect With Those Who Understand

Whether you have myasthenia gravis or care for someone with MG, you're welcomed and encouraged to join the conversation.



[View The Support Group Schedule](#)

A corkboard background with a white note pinned to it. The note has the text: "Are you looking for leadership opportunities?" followed by "We are seeking new members for our Board of Trustees!". Below the text is the logo for "CONQUER MG" with the tagline "Conquer Myasthenia Gravis". There are also decorative elements: a yellow sticky note with three stars and a smiley face, and a yellow sticky note with a lightbulb drawing. A red pushpin is also visible on the note.

Are you looking for leadership opportunities?

We are seeking new members for our Board of Trustees!

CONQUER MG
Conquer Myasthenia Gravis

[Click To Learn More](#)

Direct Patient Assistance Program 2023



Conquer MG offers financial assistance to myasthenia gravis patients who live in Illinois, Indiana, or Wisconsin, and who can demonstrate financial need.

This program will help cover the cost - up to \$1,000 - for items such as prescriptions, doctor visits, medical equipment, and therapies.

Click to [download an application](#).

We've Moved!



New address, same telephone

Need to reach us? Here's how:

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4055 W. Peterson Avenue #105
Chicago, IL 60646
800-888-6208

Email us: info@myastheniagravis.org

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