

## **Nancy Law, CEO, Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America**

Nancy Law is the newly appointed CEO for the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA). She is a person with MG and served on the National Board of Directors for nearly nine years. Nancy had retired in 2015 from a 28 year career with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and was working as a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry on issues related to patient program design and enhancing doctor/patient relationships, when she was asked to take the MGFA CEO position.

Her career in MS started in 1986 a local chapter where she was also the imbedded social work at the Ohio State Department of Neurology MS Clinic. She joined the national staff in 1990 and was appointed as EVP of programs, services and clinical care in 1997—the year after she was diagnosed with MG.

Nancy led the MS Society's efforts to help patients and families manage the challenges of living with and often progressive chronic illness. Under her direction, the Society launched more than 20 signature programs and initiatives to serve those living with MS and to engage volunteers with MS in peer support. Nancy conceptualized and launched the Society's MS Navigator program, and built a state of the art national call center that serves more than 400,000 people with MS and their families, managing more than 200,000 calls and emails annually. Other programs included the annual North American Education Program, Fall Prevention, a 24/7 peer hot line (MS Friends), and Knowledge is Power (for newly diagnosed).

In 2012, in addition to leading the organization's work in patient and family support and education, Nancy took on leadership for the Society's clinical programs, driving initiatives to increase access to quality MS care, and positioning the Society to better engage and educate health care professionals in diagnosing, understanding and treating and caring for people with MS. This included focus on improving care for rural, ethnic, pediatric and other underserved populations, outreach to community neurologists and primary care physicians, and bringing new clinicians to the field of MS.

Nancy has spoken at numerous national and international conferences, including advisory boards on progressive MS, caregiver needs and issues, and health care for special populations. She served as advisor on two studies conducted by the National Alliance for Caregiving, and has achieved international recognition for expertise in employment and chronic illness, long-term care, patient/physician communication, and issues affecting child caregivers. Nancy has been interviewed and quoted for articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Caring Today*, *Boston Globe*, and the Child Welfare League of America's *Children's Voice*.

An international leader in the world of MS, Nancy was the project director for the MS International Federation's creation of *Principles for Quality of Life for People with MS*, endorsed by the World Health Organization and famed "Harry Potter" author JK Rowling.

On the fund raising side, Nancy was a part of the MS Society's direct marketing review team, patient program design for MS Walks, and also worked with pharmaceutical companies to garner nearly \$1 million annually in grants and sponsorship for patient and clinical programs.

Nancy graduated with a degree in speech/communications from Ohio Wesleyan University, and received her social work license from the State of Ohio in 1988. Before joining the National MS Society she worked in child welfare in direct service to families, foster home certification and supervision, and volunteer management.

Nancy has two daughters and five grandchildren, and volunteers in her Parker, Colorado community as a director for children's theater. She has been an MG Walk Team Captain for the Colorado Walk for the past 3 years. She is excited to serve this organization that is so important to people with MG in this new capacity, and to apply her years of non-profit management experience in helping MGFA to grow.