



Frequently Asked Questions About Tisch MSRCNY & Our Research

What is the mission of the Tisch MS Research Center of New York?

Tisch MS Research Center of New York is an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to finding the cause and a cure for multiple sclerosis by conducting groundbreaking medical research to accelerate the pace at which research discoveries translate from lab bench to bedside. The Center aims to identify the cause of MS, understand disease mechanism, optimize therapies, and repair the damage caused by MS while offering patient access to the best and most advanced treatment possible. The Center's medical research is designed to understand all aspects of MS, including research at the cellular and molecular levels, in order to treat and cure MS. Our stem cell studies are the most exciting of all of our research projects. The Neural Cell Regeneration and Repair study is working to perfect a treatment using the patient's own adult stem cells to regenerate and repair nerve cells and help patients recover lost functions.

Who is doing the research?

Tisch MSRCNY has seven Principal Scientists and twelve research assistants and lab technicians guided by Dr. Saud A. Sadiq, Director & Chief Research Scientist of the Tisch MS Research Center.

How is the research implemented at Tisch MSRCNY versus university laboratories?

Tisch MSRCNY is the only research center located steps down the hall from the largest MS clinical practice, the International Multiple Sclerosis Management Practice (IMSMP). The seamless interaction between doctors and scientists at our state-of-the-art research facility is found nowhere else in the world. At the IMSMP, our MS specialists have the rare opportunity to bring bench research from the Tisch MSRCNY to the bedside of patients at our clinical practice. Our focus on patient-based research impacts and translates into the lives of those we treat and care for every day.

What are the clinical trials that are done at the Tisch MSRCNY?

Tisch MSRCNY participates in a number of clinical trials in collaboration with their clinical affiliate, the International Multiple Sclerosis Management Practice (IMSMP).

What happens in the Regenerative Medicine Laboratory?

The recently constructed \$5 million Regenerative Medicine Laboratory is the home of Phase II of our stem cell clinical trial for MS. The lab includes a state-of-the-art cGMP (current good manufacturing practice) cell production facility. Biospherix created a specialized unit, called an isolator, which is a closed environment for cell processing. This specialized technology is ideal for cell processing because it limits contamination from the environment and consistently keeps the cells under the conditions they grow best throughout the entire manufacturing process. The new lab includes two isolators to handle the needs of our Phase II study.

For my friend/family with MS, how will the stem cell research being done at the Regenerative Medicine Lab help them?

“We anticipate that these novel studies may form the therapeutic basis of reversing disability in patients with MS and if successful, these studies could have positive implications for treating other neurological diseases.” - Dr. Saud A. Sadiq

Is the Tisch MSRCNY affiliated with Tisch Hospital at NYU?

No – Tisch MSRCNY is not affiliated with the Tisch Hospital at NYU Medical Center. It was in recognition of the Center's achievements in MS research and in support of Dr. Sadiq's mission to discover the cause and cure of multiple sclerosis that the Tisch family named the research center in February 2013, formally creating the Tisch MS Research Center of New York. The Tisch MS Research Center of New York is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization supported entirely by grants and private philanthropy.

What is the difference between donating money to Tisch MSRCNY and the National MS Society (NMSS) since the NMSS also supports MS Research?

Tisch MSRCNY is an independent, non-profit organization and laboratory that conducts research to find the cause of and ultimately a cure for MS, and to develop reparative therapies. The National MS Society funds many research initiatives taking place all over the country, but does not conduct any research themselves. In March 2019, Tisch MSRCNY was awarded a one million dollar research grant from the NMSS to support Phase II of the FDA-Approved Stem Cell Trial for MS.

What percentage of donations to the Tisch MSRCNY go directly to research?

At Tisch MSRCNY 81% of funds are applied directly to our research, leading the Center to be referenced by Charity Navigator as “Highly Rated” and receiving a Platinum Seal from Guidestar.com

More information on our stem cell study:

Stem Cell Program/Regenerative Repair

Our Phase I clinical trial is the only clinical trial of its kind in the United States to test freshly harvested MSC-NP cells administered intrathecally in multiple dosing regimens. Results showed dosing was well tolerated with only minor adverse events, and 15 of 20 subjects demonstrated functional neurological improvement. To make MSC-NPs, autologous stem cells are taken from a patient's own bone marrow. These are called mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs). The MSCs expanded from the bone marrow are then manipulated in the laboratory to make them into neural progenitor cells, which are MSC-NPs. Our Phase II randomized placebo-controlled study will test the efficacy of intrathecal MSC-NP treatment in patients with progressive MS. This will be a double-blind study of 50 patients, all of whom will eventually receive treatment with MSC-NPs.