TMA celebrates 25 years as Your Myositis Association

January 24, 2018

Twenty-five years ago a woman with inclusion body myositis took it upon herself to do something for all those who suffered from the disease. Betty Curry formed an organization to educate patients and physicians about myositis. She was later joined by others who have dermatomyositis and polymyositis, and the Myositis Association of America was formed. Today, The Myositis Association celebrates 25 years of educating patients and physicians, and remembers its organizational beginnings in a small town in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

TMA has grown from the original 16 patients Ms. Curry assembled in 1993 to 8,000 TMA members today. The education, support, research, and advocacy activities of TMA are now wide-ranging with a Medical Advisory Board of 22 myositis experts, programs to educate physicians about this disease at 35 medical schools, more than 50 research grants and fellowships awarded totaling nearly $7 million, 40 support groups around the US, an Annual Patient Conference attracting 400-500 patients and caregivers each year, and much more.

2018 will be a year of celebrating TMA’s growth over the past 25 years. But, more importantly, we will be announcing, promoting, and celebrating the progress in research and treatments for those who live with myositis. We still have a long way to go to reach the ultimate goal of a cure, but there is significant progress being made.

You will be hearing more about ways we plan to recognize the 25 years of achievement. There will be special events at this year’s Annual Patient Conference in Louisville, September 6-9, and there will be some ways for you to help TMA and help yourself in celebration of the 25 years. There will also be some activities that are just purely for fun.

More will be announced later. For now, please know that we have appreciated your support over the last 25 years, and we are proud to be Your Myositis Association. A quarter century of service is a long time for a rare disease organization, and more remains to be done. We will not stop until a cure is found.