



Global Parkinson's Pledge

We, the undersigned members of the global Parkinson's community:

- **welcome** the accomplishment of the [World Parkinson Congress](#) 2010* in bringing together one of the largest and most diverse groups of people with Parkinson's and caregivers, scientists and other health professionals, official and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ever convened to discuss and investigate Parkinson's disease and the issues related to living with Parkinson's;
- **acknowledge** with respect and gratitude the importance and originality of the *Global Declaration on Parkinson's Disease*, initiated in Geneva, Switzerland on May 26-27, 1997 by the World Health Organization's Working Group on Parkinson's Disease, later signed by representatives of the WHO's six regions;
- **believe** that the *Global Declaration* provides a solid basis upon which to build additional levels of aspiration for the Parkinson's community around the world, including calling on governments and private funding institutions to help underwrite the commitments of (i) supporting the science that will lead us to the cure; and (ii) providing the care that will assure those who battle Parkinson's today with the best possible quality of life;
- **recognize** that Parkinson's is one of the most debilitating, socially disruptive and costly neurodegenerative conditions in the world today, and that those who live with it face serious challenges with movement and other functions which worsen as the condition progresses;
- **know** that Parkinson's presents huge social and economic costs for individuals, families, communities, and nations – costs that will inevitably rise during the coming decades as the world's population ages;
- **believe** that the scientific advances achieved to date, and the further advances that will be made possible by increased investments in neuroscience over the next several years, will provide the basis both for significant improvement in the management of Parkinson's, and for significant strengthening of our prospects for a cure.

We therefore call upon governments, health agencies of the United Nations system, and patient-oriented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the world to:

- **increase investments in advancing basic and applied neuroscience, and the science of Parkinson's in particular**, to identify its cause(s); to secure improved treatments, both symptomatic and disease-modifying; and, ultimately, to find its cure;
- **actively encourage innovation and collaboration among academic and research institutions and the commercial sector**, so that invested money is used effectively and scientific advances are rapidly translated into available therapies;
- **encourage and educate people with Parkinson's, family members and caregivers to become actively involved in the Parkinson's community and to contribute and apply their specific knowledge, experience and sense of urgency to the worldwide Parkinson's agenda;**
- **use all available resources** – including government, regulatory authorities, NGOs and other organizations -- **to better understand the needs of people who live with chronic, degenerative, neurological conditions and their family members and caregivers, and to use that knowledge to strengthen and improve integrated systems of treatment, care and support;**
- **invest special attention and resources to the condition of emerging countries**, where the needs of people with chronic conditions such as Parkinson's are often superseded by competing health and social needs, and where available resources are too often rudimentary and inadequate to the task.

Furthermore, we celebrate the momentum created by the [second World Parkinson Congress](#) and commit ourselves to working together to build a global Parkinson's movement, designed to elevate Parkinson's disease as a priority health, social and economic issue around the world. As a first step, we launch a global Parkinson's communications network to increase collaboration and connectivity among Parkinson's-related NGOs around the world.

[Sign the Global Parkinson's Pledge online at www.parkinson.ca.](http://www.parkinson.ca)

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