



BNAC
Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center

May, 2021

Dear Friend,

The support you and others provided years ago for our work in chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency helped advance the understanding of multiple sclerosis in many ways.

In addition to providing important resources for those studies, that effort connected BNAC directly to hundreds of people around the world like you who are interested in supporting specific MS research.

It also inspired us to create an Advisory Council in 2011, ensuring that the voice of people with MS is at the center of our commitment to MS research.

Marc Stecker is one of the founding members of the Council. Its members are leaders in their fields *and* they are people who care deeply about MS.

You may have read Marc's award-winning blog, [Wheelchair Kamikaze](#). In the announcement below you'll read about the contributions Marc has made to our research.

When it is again possible, we will gather to celebrate the creation of this fund, the award it supports, and the important role people with MS play at the Buffalo Neurological Analysis Center. For now, we invite you to sign a virtual **GUEST BOOK** where you can leave a message for Marc.

Robert Zivadinov, MD PhD
Director

MS Research Moves Forward

Marc Stecker Endowment Fund and Award

The Buffalo Neuroimaging Analysis Center is very pleased to announce the **Marc Stecker Endowed Fund for Multiple Sclerosis Research**. The Fund will support MS research and **The Marc Stecker Award for Excellence in MS Research**.

Thanks to gifts of over \$25,000 from Marc's BNAC Advisory Council colleagues, friends and family, the Stecker Fund is a permanently endowed fund. This means that at least \$1,000 a year will be available for the award and for research in Marc's honor, forever.

Center Director, Robert Zivadinov, MD, Ph.D. says the Marc Stecker Award is focused on principles of vital importance to BNAC and its mission. "Criteria for the award are truly inspired by Marc. Winners must show evidence of persistence, courage, and a willingness to pursue ideas that are not necessarily part of the mainstream—like Marc. Each award recipient's work must include patient-centered outcomes and ideas. Perhaps *most* inspired by Marc is the requirement

that the recipient must demonstrate an ability to communicate neurology research to a non-medical audience in a readily understandable manner,” says Zivadinov. “This award will stimulate creativity in the pursuit of knowledge to find a cure.”

Marc hopes that the award stimulates research that will reveal the underlying secrets of MS so that we can put an end to the scourge of the disease forever.

[Additional contributions are welcome](#)

[Marc Stecker Award for Excellence in Multiple Sclerosis Research](#)



Marc Stecker
Multiple Sclerosis Research Fund



Photos by Marc Stecker

About Marc Stecker

While Marc Stecker was director of DVD production for a major international music company in New York City, he started having trouble walking. Within four years he was at home, disabled by what seemed to be Primary Progressive MS, and "retired" from the career and life he knew and loved.

After spending some time reflecting, Marc set out to learn everything he could about MS. In 2009, he turned his considerable talents to writing a blog called "[Wheelchair Kamikaze](#)." It features photos and video from a camera mounted on his powerchair, oftentimes traveling at high speed over the bumpy streets of his beloved Manhattan.



The blog has received almost 4 million page-views and has won numerous awards for presenting a brutally honest view of life with chronic illness, served with a "side" of humor.

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