





Nerve axon with myelin protective coating.

## WHAT IS MYELIN REPAIR?

Myelin is the protective coating around nerve fibers in the brain and spinal cord. Multiple sclerosis leads to its inflammation and breakdown, interfering with the transmission of nerve signals and causing the symptoms of MS. The Myelin Repair Foundation is making significant strides in uncovering myelin repair drug targets.

The foundation claims that myelin repair holds great promise as a treatment for multiple sclerosis. The foundation is committed to understanding how myelin is formed, damaged and repaired. Its research is aimed at translating what it learns into viable treatments for people with MS.

## RESEARCH MADE FASTER

The Myelin Repair Foundation's "accelerated research collaboration" model is designed to speed discoveries made in academic settings to commercially viable treatments.

### 1. Real-time sharing of scientific discoveries

**ARC:** World-class scientists with complementary areas of expertise share discoveries without delays associated with publishing scientific papers.

**Traditional model:** Scientists protect promising discoveries until results are published, causing delays of months to years before others can learn and benefit.

### 2. Comprehensive research plan

**ARC:** Experiments are mapped to a broad research plan that identifies therapeutic targets that will lead to patient treatments.

**Traditional model:** Scientists operate independently, focused on narrow discoveries with no long-term focus on a particular disease or treatment.

### 3. Intellectual property protection

**ARC:** Aggressive IP policy protects discoveries for the long term and reduces risk for commercial development by others.

**Traditional model:** Universities generally treat discoveries with short-term and more predictable paybacks.

### 4. Industry partnerships

**ARC:** Actively builds relationships between biotech and pharmaceutical companies to encourage licensing for drug development and clinical trials.

**Traditional model:** Few formal ties exist between academic scientists and pharmaceutical companies.

### 5. Patient outcome focus

**ARC:** Measures success in the delivery of disease treatments.

**Traditional model:** Measures success in the publication of scientific papers.

been involved in it before, how really hard it is and why it doesn't happen at a greater rate."

For the drug companies that can advance the science, the MS market represents vast potential for sales. According to Datamonitor, an online

Reprinted with permission from the *San Jose Business Journal*. ©2009, all rights reserved.

Reprinted by Scoop ReprintSource 1-800-767-3263.