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RESEARCH!AMERICA HONORS MYELIN REPAIR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT SCOTT JOHNSON
Recipient of the Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award

WASHINGTON—March 12, 2012—Entrepreneur Scott Johnson, president and founder of the [Myelin Repair Foundation](#) (MRF), will receive [Research!America's 2012 Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award](#) on March 14, 2012 for his patient advocacy efforts and for his work to bridge the gap between basic scientific research and the clinic.

Johnson, who has been living with multiple sclerosis for more than 35 years, developed a business model that removes common barriers in the research and development process.

The award will be presented to Johnson at the 16th Annual Advocacy Awards tonight at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. The awards dinner attracts more than 400 leaders from government, industry, academia and health advocacy organizations to recognize top medical and health research advocates, who have made an impact in advancing the nation's commitment toward research.

"Mr. Johnson has proven that basic research can be accelerated into the development of drugs through stronger connections between academic scientists and the drug industry," said Mary Woolley, president and CEO of Research!America. "His leadership in reforming the process of delivering new treatments to patients living with chronic disease is highly commendable."

"I am honored that our razor-sharp focus to bring new treatments to the clinic and our broad goal of transforming healthcare by accelerating medical research has been recognized by Research!America," said Scott Johnson, president of the Myelin Repair Foundation. "Our innovative research approach to speed up the drug discovery process to advance the most promising treatments for patients has the potential to improve the health and lives of billions globally."

Johnson holds more than 30 years of experience in business, entrepreneurship and consulting. He holds an M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Davis. Since 2004, under Johnson's leadership, the Myelin Repair Foundation (MRF) has catalyzed myelin repair research that has identified more than 100 potential myelin repair targets and many research tools in order to advance promising myelin repair therapeutics forward into clinical trials. The acceleration process that MRF is developing and demonstrating has already attracted the attention of scores of other medical research organizations.

The *Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award* honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to increasing the level of advocacy for medical or health research at the local, state or national level. Llura and Gordon Gund have been benefactors of the award since 2006, when Gordon Gund received an Advocacy Award for his role in advancing research for retinal degenerative diseases.

Other 2012 Research!America Advocacy Award winners are U.S. Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD); Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (h.c.), CEO of the American Association for Cancer Research; Sanjay Gupta, MD, Chief Medical Correspondent for CNN; Donald Lindberg, MD, Director of the National Library of Medicine; and the Food Allergy Initiative (FAI).

Research!America is the nation's largest nonprofit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. The 2012 Advocacy Awards represent Research!America's 16th year of recognizing the accomplishments of leading advocates for medical and health research. For more information, visit www.researchamerica.org/advocacy_awards.

About the Myelin Repair Foundation

The Myelin Repair Foundation (MRF) (<http://www.myelinrepair.org>) is a Silicon Valley-based, non-profit research organization focused on accelerating the discovery and development of myelin repair therapeutics for multiple sclerosis. Its [Accelerated Research Collaboration™](#) (ARC™) model is designed to optimize the entire process of medical research, drug development and the delivery of patient treatments.

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