



**(W30) THE TEAM PROJECT: AN INTERNATIONAL PILOT PROJECT ON TEAM MENTORING IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

The on-going project is a pilot collaboration between the Italian MS Society and the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers. The project, involving groups of healthcare professionals from Italian MS clinics, provides a series of educational courses and the opportunity to participate in a mentoring program involving CMSC member centers. Experiences will be shared with other MS clinic groups through regional seminars as the concluding phase of the project.

The project's global outcome is to improve the delivery of care to people with MS through promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among healthcare professionals in MS clinics.

General team objectives include identifying ways healthcare professionals can communicate more effectively, challenging cultural obstacles to interdisciplinary-based practice in MS, defining the unique and vital contribution of every team member, and critically examining current practice and organization in order to improve patient care.

Further, specific objectives were delineated for each discipline. The nurse's goals are to define and develop the role of the MS nurse within the interdisciplinary team and assess risks and benefits of taking an active role in assessment, care planning and outcome assessment. The psychologist's goal is to define and develop the role of the psychologist specialist in MS to better meet the needs of people affected by MS. The neurologist's objectives include evaluating the contribution that non-physician healthcare professionals make to comprehensive MS care; learning how shared decision-making is applicable to interdisciplinary MS teams and challenging cultural obstacles related to physician-headed hierarchies.

A series of evaluation tools have been developed in order to provide on-going monitoring of the project. The results of the pilot project will be evaluated for applicability in other countries.

*Study Supported by: Merck Serono Italy*

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