

THE RIDE COUNCIL

A VIRTUAL COUNCIL FOR
RESEARCH | INCLUSION | DIVERSITY | EQUITY

Mission

The mission of the RIDE Council is to broaden participation in multiple sclerosis (MS) research using the voices and experiences of people from traditionally underrepresented communities.

Vision

The RIDE Council envisions a world in which underrepresented groups are meaningfully engaged in all stages of MS research, enabling findings and their implications to equitably benefit all affected populations.

The Need

Minority populations are severely underrepresented in scientific research. In fact, recent studies show that Hispanic people make up **16%** of the US population but only **1%** of research participants. African Americans, who make up more than **13%** of the US population only account for **5%** of clinical trial participants.

We know that MS research findings as well often fail to reflect the full diversity of the affected population.

This lack of diversity shows the extent to which researchers need...

- **Informed** voices that can speak to minority community needs
- **Expert** minority-group perspectives on recruitment and study design
- **Clear** and **effective** approaches to meaningfully integrating DE&I into research

To address this gap, RIDE will provide...

Community-developed advice and best practices provided by people with MS from traditionally underrepresented groups

A knowledgeable group of Council members that convenes regularly to discuss underrepresentation and review research initiatives

Sub-council "affinity" groups focused on increasing study participation within specific underrepresented populations



About Us

- RIDE is an initiative of the nonprofit organization Accelerated Cure Project. Its 29 Council members are people with MS belonging to racial, ethnic, and social groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in MS research.
- Sub-Council groups have been formed to focus specifically on the Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx communities.
- The Emerging Voices Sub-Council brings together people from other underrepresented groups, including indigenous peoples, the LGBTQ+ community, Southeast Asian people, people with disabilities, people from rural communities, and veterans.



Objectives

Discuss issues that have historically led to underrepresentation in medical research

Increase diverse participation in MS research and the iConquerMS research network

Share knowledge on inclusive and equitable research with the MS community

Outcomes and Impact

Through the work of the RIDE Council...

Researchers will have a resource to help design, discuss, and review new and existing research initiatives to ensure they meet their diversity goals and requirements;

People with MS will have a group focused exclusively on ensuring their community is represented in crucial clinical trials and the resulting data;

Companies and organizations will have an informed group to help navigate the complexities of reaching and meaningfully including historically marginalized groups in their work.

Come along for the RIDE!

Accelerated Cure Project welcomes funding (grants, sponsorships, and collaborative agreements) for the RIDE Council. We are happy to share our on-going activities and insights derived from Council and sub-council discussions with our funders through our Friends of RIDE report and other means.



For more information on our current work, please visit:
www.iconquerms.org/ride-council

or reach out to kshrivastava@acceleratedcure.org

Support for the RIDE Council has been generously provided by organizations including Bristol Myers Squibb and Biogen.