



# Strength and Hope Through CONNECTIONS

Volume 60 Issue 3

Summer 2020

## Making the most of your medical care during a pandemic

Dealing with MG means your life is full of medical appointments. Add in a pandemic and it causes confusion as to how these appointments should look during this time.

First and foremost, check with your doctor to see what type of appointments are best for you. Telehealth is available in many locations and that may be a suitable option for your care. It is important to note that you should not put off necessary medical care and you should not delay routine preventative care. This is pertinent when dealing with MG. If you are having any trouble with breathing, swallowing or chewing, follow through with your appointments as scheduled.

When you go to your appointments, you'll notice hospitals and clinics are taking new steps for safety and sanitation including: pre-appointment health calls, temperature checks, face covering requirements, waiting in your vehicle until you are clear to go into an exam room, limited entrances and social distancing.

Our MG clinic is back open at KU Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital. The MGA will be taking extra steps to enforce social distancing and staff will be wearing face coverings when interacting with you. If we missed you at an appointment over these past few months, please feel free to reach out and catch us up to speed. We are hopeful our St. Louis University Clinic will be back up and running in the next few weeks.

## MGA support group update

When COVID-19 became a frequent word in our vocabulary in the spring, the MGA quickly transitioned to virtual support groups via Zoom. These have been very successful as we have connected with patients and families who never connected through support groups before. A variety of offerings including times and topics have been extended over the past four months.

The silver lining to our current situation is that we've found we need to maintain a virtual element going, even when we go back to meeting in person. In June, we introduced our Virtual Monday Meet Up. The virtual support group will meet on the third Monday of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm. We'll have participants from all over our region be able to connect and hear from experts about MG from the comfort of their homes on a regular basis. If you aren't comfortable with Zoom, we are here to help. Tanya Renner, Program Coordinator, Kansas City and in house Zoom expert, has trained many patients and is willing to talk you through it.

We recognize many of you are anxious to meet again in person. We continue to monitor COVID-19 and work to develop safety plans to ensure when the time is right, that we can make that happen. Check the support group calendar on page 13 for a full update of times and dates. Additionally, please stay tuned in to our social media pages and our website for up to the minute updates.



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE MGA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Change is the only constant these days. I heard this the other day on TV and my ears immediately perked up! Anybody else feeling like this? COVID-19 has highlighted nearly every uncertainty in my life. On the flip side, I often find myself thinking, having MG means uncertainty is the norm. Change is the norm. Flexibility is the norm. Each new day is a different day. Maybe those of us battling chronic illness are more prepared for a pandemic than we think! Perhaps it's just about how we think about things.

We hope you are taking advantage of our virtual groups, our Facebook groups and other social media pages during this time. The true test for me has been the isolation from others. I'm anxious to get back out and be face to face with each and every one of you but I know this entails a slow, thought-out process which we are currently developing. In the meantime, please know we are here for you, thinking of you, and willing to assist with your MG journey anyway we can. We're just an email or phone call away! Be well!

Allison Foss, Executive Director  
allisonfoss@mgakc.org



## MGA Board of Directors and Staff

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## MGA receives a new database

The growth of the MGA over the past few years and the use of an old-fashioned database was proving to give staff some heart stopping, gray-haired moments. In fact, a few hoops had to be jumped through with the most recent computer purchase to even put the software on the machine! With the support of board member, Michael Eagan, Senior Vice President of Operations at ATG, we have been able to secure the buildout of a new Salesforce database. The MGA is especially grateful to ATG employees, Graeme Oxley and Tessa Hiatt for all of their time and effort on this project. The implementation of the new database means both staff in STL and KC can work within the system while seeing patients at their respective clinics simultaneously (something that posed many issues prior)! To say we are excited is an understatement. The MGA is grateful for the support and hard work of ATG to get this huge task completed.

Speaking of current data, if something has changed with your information, send us a note or give us a call so we can update our records. With our new database, you'll note we are continuing to move towards going paperless.



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## **MG and COVID-19 Update by Swathy Chandrashekhar, MD, Mamatha Pasnoor, MD, and Mazen Dimachkie, MD of the University of Kansas Medical Center**

COVID-19 poses unique challenges to the evaluation and management of people with myasthenia gravis (MG). MG crisis may affect up to 20% of generalized MG cases over 9 years. It is well known that infections frequently trigger myasthenic exacerbations. Pulmonary function testing, and BiPAP usually used to evaluate and treat patients with MG are generally to be avoided with COVID-19 except when absolutely necessary due to the risk of aerosolization of the virus.

While it is not true of all MG patients who contract COVID-19, some cases may become critically ill and require being placed on a ventilator with medically-induced coma. In that situation, it is challenging to evaluate for additional signs of MG exacerbation that may require MG specific therapies. Moreover, experimental treatments for COVID-19 like azithromycin and hydroxychloroquine should be used with caution in MG patients as they have been known to trigger myasthenic exacerbations irrespective of COVID-19 infection.

The biggest challenge and unanswered question still remain regarding the management of immunosuppressive medications in patients with MG so as to balance both minimizing the risk of getting COVID-19, as well as keeping MG under control without needing hospitalization. We do not have at this time data specific for COVID-19 risk in patients with neuromuscular disorders. It is generally agreed upon that people of older age (60 years or older) and those with cancer, diabetes, heart conditions, lung disease, or on immunosuppressive agents are in the high risk COVID-19 group. In addition, patients with neuromuscular conditions that already affects their breathing or swallowing, or require immunosuppressive/ immunomodulatory medications are likely at higher risk of COVID-19 or having a more severe COVID-19 disease course. Many MG patients would meet this description, and therefore must exercise significantly more caution regarding personal protective equipment and follow more vigilant social distancing practices. These include:

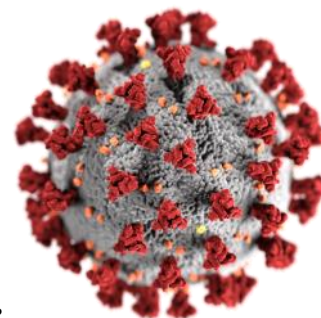
- wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface
- Avoid touching your face
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits
- Practice social and physical distancing – 6 feet away
- Wearing masks in public

It is probably prudent to continue current immunosuppressive treatments so as to minimize risk of MG exacerbation during this time. In case of exacerbation, standard of care is recommended. And if MG patients test positive for COVID-19, holding immunosuppression may not necessarily improve outcomes since medication washout periods are long, and regaining momentum later may take several months.

A group of international MG experts have recommended that since most patients who develop COVID-19 have mild disease, they should continue on the current best practice standard of care for MG and LEMS. There might even be a need to increase the dose of corticosteroids as in standard in infection/stress protocol. Please consult with your treating neurologist and your primary care doctor if you develop COVID-19 infection. However, if the COVID-19 symptoms are severe and require hospitalization, it may be worthwhile considering pausing current strong immunosuppression temporarily, especially if there is added infections/sepsis. Immune depleting agents should not be given under such condition but milder immune-suppressive agents (azathioprine, mycophenolate) should

## MG and COVID-19 Update continued.....

probably be continued, since effects of dosing are longer lasting, wash out takes longer and rebuilding of effects take several months. Most decisions for treatment escalation have to be individualized based on the relative severity of COVID-19 and that of MG. All treatment changes should be done under physician supervision.



On the other hand, for patients with severe COVID-19 (irrespective of MG), some studies are testing the effectiveness of immunosuppressive medications such as IVIg, eculizumab, tocilizumab, steroids etc. as treatments to control the cytokine storm that occurs in severe COVID-19. This is to help reduce mortality and morbidity from severe COVID-19. In fact, a randomized controlled trial of steroids (dexamethasone) in nearly 6000 patients with COVID-19 in the UK showed 33% improvement in mortality in severe COVID-19 requiring mechanical ventilation and 20% in those requiring high-flow oxygen therapy.

There is a need for better data besides that available from case reports and small case series of MG patients contracting COVID-19. The CARE-MG Registry is attempting to capture data specific to MG. The International Neuromuscular COVID-19 Database, led in the US by Dr. Mazen Dimachkie, is gathering data specifically to assess outcomes in patients with neuromuscular disorders (adult and pediatric) including MG, who develop COVID-19. This will help not only define and assess current care, but will also be used in quality improvement and surveillance efforts aimed at improving the care of all neuromuscular patients, including MG and LEMS.

## Tips for easier chewing & swallowing

- \* Rest prior to meals
- \* Eat smaller, more frequent meals
- \* Crush medications into soft foods if difficult to swallow
- \* Consume cold foods and liquids
- \* Try protein shakes and liquids
- \* Break or cut food into small bite size pieces
- \* Eat soft foods to reduce chewing
- \* Time medication around meals in effort to eat at the peak of meds of taking effect



## Save the Date

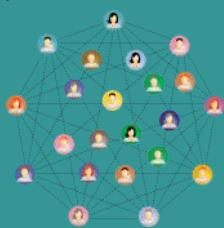
**October 24, 2020– NW Arkansas Annual Conference**  
**November 7, 2020– MGA Annual Meeting**



## MGA Connections

Are you newly diagnosed and looking for support and answers? Have you lived with MG for years and want to share your experiences? For anyone looking to talk to others who have MG, we have MGA

Connections! Give us a call or send us an email and we will send you the full list or help make suggestions of people with whom you may benefit from by connecting via email or phone.



## Ways to Support the MGA



## 2nd Annual Reel in MG Fishing Derby to be held

Whose ready for our 2nd Annual Reel in MG Fishing Derby on Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 11-3pm at the home of St. Louis member, Mark Macias? If you attended last year you know this was a festive, fun, fall event with a lot of fish, friendship and great food! We plan for a repeat this year! It's free to attend but you **MUST** be registered by October 3, 2020. Register today by heading over to [www.mgkac.org](http://www.mgkac.org) and clicking events. Scroll down to the fish picture and click. Bring your friends, family and your fishing pole! We'll be raffling some great items and selling Reel in Fishing shirts and hats! See you there!



## Full speed ahead in Arkansas

At age 37, James Dorsey thought his life was over when he was diagnosed with MG. James of Gentry, AR began noticing he would tire before lunch and often needed an afternoon nap. This led to a series of medical appointments and testing, landing him the MG diagnosis.

Prior to his diagnosis, James and his wife owned a demanding business; he was the lead vocalist and guitarist for the band, Stone Creek. Unable to stand for long periods, James had to give up his business and singing gig. For over a decade, James thought his life was over, but when his kids started to get married and have children, James realized that he wanted to play an active role in their lives and that there was more to life than MG.



For a few years, James rode a mountain bike for exercise but on December 21, 2018, he decided to start a new journey; running. James plans his running routes and he keeps his wife informed of them in case he needs to call her for support. He especially loves the runs where he is joined by his son and daughter.

James was training for Springdale's Hogeye Marathon on March 28, 2020, but due to COVID-19, the marathon took place as a virtual event. James ended up completing the event through lightning, hail, and pouring rain in 5 hours, 2 minutes and 18 seconds! About to give up at the 21<sup>st</sup> mile, his daughter surprised him at a corner and ran the last five miles by his side. Marked as one of his most satisfying experiences, James recounts that it was worth every blister and day spent in bed recovering. James stated that his heart was smiling the entire day even if it didn't look like it from the outside. He also shared that he used the experience to think of the decade he spent watching MG take over his life. If his body allows it, he will run another marathon!

When James isn't running you can find him playing with his 6 grandkids, studying and playing music, researching theology, and working in his garden. MG is only *a part* of James' life. Nevertheless, it has reminded him to slow down and appreciate what's in front of him.

We recognize that for some, wearing a mask proves to be a challenge. These are CDC guidelines for if you elect to wear one. For additional CDC COVID-19 guidelines go to [www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

## How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

Accessible: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

### WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2



### USE THE FACE COVERING TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear a face covering to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

### FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



### TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water



CS101448A 06/18/2020

Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# 8 Clinical Trials

Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City, KS, is participating in clinical trials relating to myasthenia gravis (see below). If you are interested in participating in a trial or would like more information, go to [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov), and enter the NCT number related to the specific trial. You can also call KU directly and talk to Andrew Heim at 913-945-9926.



1. A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Ravulizumab in Complement-Inhibitor-Naïve Adult Patients With Generalized Myasthenia Gravis NCT03920293
2. Characterization of Agrin/LRP4 Antibody Positive Myasthenia Gravis. Visit <http://www.augusta.edu/research/studies/view.php?study=713470> for more information on this study
3. A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study Evaluating Efficacy and Safety of Rozanolixizumab in Adult Patients with Generalized Myasthenia Gravis NCT03971422
4. A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Confirm the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of Zilucoplan in Subjects with Generalized Myasthenia Gravis NCT04115293

For Clinical Trials at **St. Louis University** contact 314-977-4900 for more information. St. Louis University is recruiting for pediatrics for the Soliris trial.



For Clinical Trials at the **University of Missouri** contact Raghav Govindarajan, MD at [govindarajanr@health.missouri.edu](mailto:govindarajanr@health.missouri.edu)



## EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the Myasthenia Gravis Association and the Iowa State Alumni of Kansas City, we would like to address the Cy's Crown Town Trivia Night 2020. Given these unprecedented times, we have decided to cancel this year's trivia night. Even though the disappointment is great, we are so grateful for the tremendous success this event has had in 3 short years. Our organizations remain committed to continuing this amazing event in the future, and we already have our eyes set on 2021. In the meantime, we hope you all stay safe, healthy and strong in these challenging times.

ALLISON FOSS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION  
BRYAN SCHMIDT - PRESIDENT, IOWA STATE ALUMNI OF KANSAS CITY



## Familiar face lands new role at the University of Missouri

One of the MGA's most committed supporters has moved east to the University of Missouri where he will head up the University's Health Affairs as vice chancellor. Richard Barohn has been a friend of the MGA for well over 20 years. In fact, it was his idea to start the MGA Clinic partnership at the University of Kansas in the early 2000's.

Dr. Barohn took over the helm in Columbia on July 1, 2020 where, per the University of Missouri he will "develop and implement a comprehensive strategy that affirms MU Health Care as a nationally recognized leader in patient care and continues the MU School of Medicine's legacy of education and scholarly excellence."

Coming off the role as vice chancellor for research at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. Barohn is a nationally known leader in research and patient care for rare neuromuscular disease. Transitioning from Kansas City to Columbia is somewhat of a going home adventure for Dr. Barohn as he hails from the St. Louis area. Dr. Barohn earned a medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1980. Following he completed his residency in neurology at the Wilford Hall U.S. Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Then he completed his fellowship training in neuromuscular diseases at The Ohio State University.

As released through the University of Missouri, "This opportunity is a dream of a lifetime; I'm going back to my home state, my home university and working to advance health care and medical education in the state of Missouri," Barohn said. "I am thrilled that President Choi, Chancellor Cartwright and the curators have confidence in me, and I am looking forward to working with all the MU leaders, including MU Health Care CEO Jonathan Curtright, School of Medicine Dean Steve Zweig and Provost Latha Ramchand. This is an incredibly exciting time to be joining Mizzou, especially with all the recent progress on the NextGen Precision Health Institute. We are poised to become national leaders in this and particularly in precision medicine."

The MGA is looking forward to working with Dr. Barohn in Columbia, as well as there are many patients in Mid Missouri who look forward to welcoming him with open arms! For more information you can go to <https://www.muhealth.org/doctors/richard-barohn-md>



## Join a Facebook group for your support group area!

Did you know we have Facebook groups for all of our support group areas? Head on over to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/mgakc](http://www.facebook.com/mgakc)) and click "groups". Select the group specific to your area and answer the questions to request to join. For safety and security, we only accept requests that have answered the questions for each specific group. This is a great way to stay connected to those in your area in between meetings! Also a great way to obtain resources specific to your area and stay in the loop for meetings!



# MGA launches organizational blog during MG Awareness Month

Written by Meridith O'Connor, MSW, St. Louis Program Coordinator

We are already halfway through the year and I can't decide if this year has gone by incredibly fast or extremely slow. COVID-19 has changed the way we approach things, but nevertheless, "the show must go on." Every June is an exciting time for the MGA; a time to display our support more than ever and show the world what MG is all about. While the pandemic has completely altered our lives, one thing has remained the same: and that is our commitment to the patients and families impacted by MG.

For this year's awareness efforts, we wanted to do something fun; something informative yet personal. After much consideration, we thought this was the perfect time to launch our new blog, *The MGA Digest*! *The MGA Digest* will highlight the different people, perspectives, and prospects in the MGA community. Through this blog, we believe that our MG family will grow closer and offer another opportunity for conversations to be had around MG.

*The MGA Digest* has been up and running for about a month and the response has been SO POSITIVE! One of our latest blog posts was authored by Donna Whittaker, a longtime member



of the MGA family. Donna shared how much has changed over the last 40 years since her initial diagnosis and what MG awareness means to her. She writes, "...*Myasthenia gravis awareness means a lot to me. Not only am I not alone with myasthenia, but I have access to the latest information. I have friends around the world who truly understand me far beyond my small rural hometown. A patient newly diagnosed with this condition with the mysterious name can Google it and find widespread involvement by the medical community and other patients. The newly diagnosed and the MG veterans going through challenging times are not alone.*"

Like Donna, we are encouraged by all of the support that exists for the MG community. Furthermore, we at the MGA are proud to be a part of the solution; to provide support in ways that didn't exist decades ago. Thank you to all those who participated in the MG awareness activities this past June and thank you to all those who have followed along this new endeavor!

Interested in sharing your story on *The MGA Digest*? Email Allison at [allisonfoss@mgakc.org](mailto:allisonfoss@mgakc.org). Don't forget to check out our blog by going to our main website, and under the "Insights & Updates" tab, click "blog" followed by a click on the "MGA Digest" link. Or simply use the following link: <https://mgadigest.wixsite.com/mgakc>



**Thymus gland-** located in your upper chest and part of your immune system which may trigger or maintain production of antibodies which may cause muscle weakness.

## Some MYASTHENIAGRAVIS terminology

**Generalized MG-** MG effecting more than just the eye (ocular).

**An Acetylcholine receptor (AChR) antibody test** is used to diagnose MG and distinguish from other conditions that have similar symptoms.

**Electromyography (EMG)-** a diagnostic procedure to assess the health of muscles and the nerve cells that control them.

**Skeletal muscles-** any muscle you can move just by thinking about it.



# Recap of the Virtual MGA Triple Crown Showdown

Did you have as much fun as we did tracking all the virtual participants of the MGA Triple Crown Showdown? From Texas to Tennessee, to Colorado to Indiana, 337 runners, walkers and tot trotters participated in this year's virtual MGA Triple Crown Showdown. Participants helped increase awareness and over \$36,000.00 was raised for the MGA! The MGA is grateful to the sponsors who were flexible with the changes that had to be made due to COVID-19, which started right in the middle of our planning, as well as all our supporters who cheered us on virtually. While this was not how we envisioned this year's event, we are excited to announce that the 10th Annual MGA Triple Crown Showdown will take place on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at Town Center Plaza in Leawood, KS. So mark those calendars and save the date! For more info: watch your email, check for updates on our social media, and explore the MGA5k website ([www.mga5k.com](http://www.mga5k.com)).



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## A CLINICAL STUDY IN MYASTHENIA GRAVIS



LIVING WITH MG

An elderly couple is sitting on a light-colored couch. The man, with white hair and glasses, is leaning back with his hand on his chin. The woman, with short blonde hair and glasses, is smiling and looking at a book held by the man. The book has a purple cover. The background is a simple indoor setting with a window.

## The CHAMPION MG STUDY

Alexion is currently recruiting patients with anti-acetylcholine antibody receptor positive generalized myasthenia gravis (MG) 18 years of age or older for a Phase 3 study of ravulizumab-cwvz, called the CHAMPION MG Study. The study will assess ravulizumab-cwvz, compared to placebo, on the improvement of MG symptoms (MG activities of daily living). Participants may continue on their current medicines\*, as long as they are stable, and after a 26-week study treatment period all participants can receive ravulizumab-cwvz for an additional follow up period of up to 2 years. For more information and to learn if you are eligible for the CHAMPION MG Study, please contact [ClinicalTrials@alexion.com](mailto:ClinicalTrials@alexion.com) or go to [MGCHAMPION.com](http://MGCHAMPION.com).

\*Except for other complement inhibitors, rituximab, chronic Plasma Exchange or Intravenous Immunoglobulin

## MG Support Groups

Area	Dates	Time	Location
Kansas City, MO	October 17th	10am-12:00pm	<b>Holy Cross Lutheran Church (note new location)</b> 7851 W. 119th Street Overland Park, KS RSVP tanyarenner@mgakc.org or (816) 256-4100
KC Northland	September 10th	noon-1:30pm	<b>Location- TBD</b> RSVP tanyarenner@mgakc.org or (816) 256-4100
Mid-Missouri	August 27th	6:30-8pm	<b>Webinar/Zoom</b> RSVP tanyarenner@mgakc.org or (816) 256-4100
Springfield, MO	October 29th	6-8pm	<b>Location- TBD</b> RSVP tanyarenner@mgakc.org or (816) 256-4100
St. Louis	August 22nd	10:00-11:30am	<b>Courtyard by Marriott- Brentwood</b> 8101 N. Dale Ave Richmond Heights, MO 63117 RSVP tanyarenner@mgakc.org or 816-256-4100
Wichita, KS	August 22nd	1-3pm	<b>Webinar/Zoom</b> Contact: Dana or Larry Paxson for more info or to RSVP dkptiffany@gmail.com or (316) 269-9120
Young Friends of the MGA Group- Kansas City	September 2nd	6pm	<b>Location TBD</b> RSVP to Allison Foss allisonfoss@mgakc.org
Young Persons with MG Group- STL	August 20th	6pm	<b>Location TBD</b> RSVP to Meridith O'Connor meridithoconnor@mgakc.org
Northwest, AR	September 20th	2:30-4:30pm	<b>Location TBD</b> Contact: Roger Huff for more info or to RSVP jrhuff1@cox.net or (479) 790-3022
Topeka, KS	September 24th	6-8pm	<b>Topeka &amp; Shawnee County Library</b> 1515 SW. 10th Ave Topeka, KS 66604 RSVP tanyarenner@mgakc.org or 816-256-4100
Eastsiders Lunch Bunch	September 16th	11am	<b>Smokehouse BBQ</b> 19000 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64057 RSVP carolhunt04@yahoo.com



**argenx is a global immunology company  
developing antibody-based medicines  
for patients suffering from severe  
autoimmune diseases, including  
Myasthenia Gravis, and cancer.**

By translating immunology breakthroughs into innovative drug candidates, argenx is building a world-class portfolio of first-in-class antibodies in both early and late clinical-stages of development.

## In Memoriam

**Anita Byrd**

John and Lori Rogers

Delories Overstreet

Doug and Cyndi Lee

Got an idea for a fundraiser in your community? Contact us today!  
allisonfoss@mgakc.org

## Membership Contributions

Rev. Raymond & Angela Hankins

Lorraine Boyd

Steve Bricker

Al & Kay Dimmitt

Jeanette Cashatt

Jimmie Harbour

*thank you!*

Edsel Noland

Cindy Disque

Richard DeGeorge

Jennie Mandigo *in honor of Beth Wienck*

Brenda Vang

Tom and Barb Warrington

William and Anne *Hawkins in memory of Stephen Hawkins and in honor of Diana Wilmoth*

Tom, Marcy and Kathryn Langhofer *in honor of Michael Egan*

## Cheers to 60 Years! We're turning 60!

We've got some BIG news to share—we are turning 60 this year! We have a lot to celebrate and have accomplished so much in 60 years! So much of how we do business has evolved and changed over the years. Growth and expansion have enabled us to connect, partner and reach patients and families in ways we did not think possible. We are so thrilled to share this momentous occasion with our patients, providers and partners however at this time our celebration has been paused due to COVID-19. We are looking forward to celebrating in person with you in 2021. In honor of our 60th birthday please consider becoming a member of the MGA today. See our membership form below. Your donation enables us to continue providing services and supports to those impacted by myasthenia gravis across the heartland through new patient packets, clinics, education and awareness events. You can also make a donation online at [www.mgakc.org](http://www.mgakc.org). Cheers to 60!



### Consider becoming a 2020 member!

PLEASE PRINT

Cut & enclose in envelope & mail to: →

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to help support the MGA by becoming a 2020 member or making a contribution:

- ☐ \$ 25 Basic Membership
- ☐ \$ 60 (60th Anniversary Membership)
- ☐ \$ 100 Sustaining Membership
- ☐ \$ 500 Patron Membership
- ☐ \$ 1,000 Lifetime Membership
- ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of:
- ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of:

MGA  
2340 E. Meyer Blvd.  
Bldg. 1, Suite 300A  
KCMO 64132

#### PLEASE CHECK:

- ☐ MG Patient
- ☐ Relative
- ☐ Friend

# Thank You!

*Make checks payable to the  
Myasthenia Gravis Association:  
CONTRIBUTIONS may be tax  
deductible*

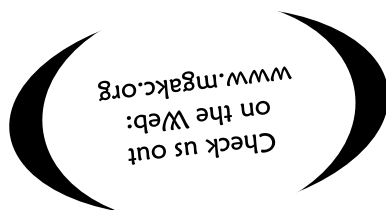
DONATE  
NOW

<https://www.firstgiving.com/event/mgakc/2020MGA>

Myasthenia Gravis Association  
 2340 E. Meyer Blvd.  
 Building 1, Suite 300A  
 Kansas City, MO 64132  
 Phone: (816) 256-4100  
 Email: [info@mgakc.org](mailto:info@mgakc.org)  
[www.mgakc.org](http://www.mgakc.org)  
[www.mga5k.com](http://www.mga5k.com)

**The Mission of the MGA**  
 The Myasthenia Gravis Association (MGA) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for those who are affected by this autoimmune, neuromuscular disease, through awareness, education and patient services.

If you would like to be removed from or added to our mailing list, or if you have or will have an address change, please send a note to:  
 Myasthenia Gravis Association  
 2340 E. Meyer Blvd.  
 Building 1, Suite 300A  
 Kansas City, MO 64132  
 ~ or ~  
 Call us at: (816) 256-4100



**Strength and Hope through Connections**