

# Medical Research: It's About Steve and Friends



**“We didn’t ask for Parkinson’s disease, but we can beat it, together!”**

In 2005, Steve DeWitte was told his stiffness and left hand tremors were because of young-onset Parkinson’s disease, a progressive and degenerative neurological disorder for which there is no known cause or cure. At 48-years-old, Steve began educating himself about the challenges ahead, and laying a strategy for how he and his community could win the battle against this disease.



Steve learned that the primary way to achieve his goals was to seek support for research funding, and for people with Parkinson’s to participate in trials. Steve became aware of the important role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in the funding of Parkinson’s research in the world. He was disappointed to learn that more than 85% of clinical trials for Parkinson’s and other diseases are delayed, and 30% never even get off the ground, due to a lack of volunteers. Clinical trials are a key step on the path to developing new therapies – and ultimately, a cure – for Parkinson’s. Steve began to recruit fellow patients and transport them to clinical trials of their choosing. His hope is that his clinical trial initiative – along with the efforts of dedicated stakeholders, adequate funding for the NIH, and the expeditious review and approval by the FDA – will bring disease modifying treatments to his community soon. Very Soon!

**Unless new treatments are discovered, the prevalence of Parkinson’s disease will more than double by 2040. The cost of Parkinson’s to American society exceeds \$14.4 billion each year.**

**We’ve made progress. But the funding to sustain it is eroding.**

**Congress: harness your compassion, gather your will, and fund the National Institutes of Health at \$32 billion in FY15.**

**Do it for Steve and all Parkinson’s patients nationwide.**

[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

[www.ParkinsonsAction.org](http://www.ParkinsonsAction.org)