

**Donald S. Wood, PhD, President and CEO
Muscular Dystrophy Association**



Donald S. Wood, PhD, is the president and chief executive officer of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), a role that crowns nearly 40 years of dedication to the organization as a researcher and as a volunteer member of the Board of Directors. His impact on the field of neuromuscular research is undeniable; in his research capacity, Dr. Wood played a pivotal role in launching and leading MDA's Task Force on Genetics, which spearheaded the discovery of the dystrophin gene, the key to understanding Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). That breakthrough forever changed the course of muscular dystrophy research, laying the foundation for the therapies and treatments emerging today.

Dr. Wood's leadership extends far beyond MDA. With more than four decades of experience spanning both nonprofit and for-profit sectors, he has built a reputation for driving innovation and results. Before taking the helm as MDA's president and CEO, he served as vice president of institutional effectiveness at Odessa College, where his groundbreaking Drop Rate Improvement Program dramatically boosted student success. In the 1990s and early 2000s, he helped shape the future of medical services as an executive—and later president and chief operating officer—of IntegraMed America, Inc. During that time, he co-founded Odyssey Biomedical, a pioneering genetic-testing company that later became part of Genzyme.

Dr. Wood's journey began in the lab, where he conducted neuromuscular disease research as a National Institutes of Health (NIH) postdoctoral fellow in neurology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. He holds a doctorate in physiology

from Washington State University, bringing scientific expertise and visionary leadership to the fight against neuromuscular disease.