

RAGAMS Connect

*Bringing the world together to improve the quality of life
of those affected by MS and to end MS forever*

Chairpersons Message

"Rotarians can make a difference" Together, Rotarians, families and friends, are stronger than MS. Our ultimate goal is to bring the world together to improve the quality of life of everybody affected by MS and to end MS forever.

The last quarter of the Rotary year has been very busy with MS 50 km walk, Rotary D9800 conference, development for the Houston Virtual Convention Booth, management of the 2022 Houston Convention real time Exhibition Booth and participation in MSIF-MS connections program.

RAGAMS (India) organised a very successful World MS Day event on May 31st with many Indian Rotary Clubs Involved, refer Chairperson Shankar's email below:

Subject: Re: World MS Day update - MS Connections extended

Greetings from RAGAMS India

Yesterday we had a wonderful program where close to 31 clubs and 3 Rotaract clubs were involved. This was such an impactful event that many clubs have come forward to extend their support to MS and we hope to do some good work going forward. We also had a fashion of persons with MS followed by a fashion show by the 31 Presidents involved. We presented Mementoes to MS Doctors, Rehabilitation Specialists, Persons with MS and Caregivers.

We had an attendance close to 200 people along with press and media. I shall share the media report in a short while. I hope to emulate the same in various cities in the coming months.

Please find attached the photos for your reference.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AJWNE_EhgldA0_0cox14YP8Cj3FieVgZ

Thank you all for your encouragement and love!

Regards,

Shankar Subramanian



Annual MS Awareness month-May.

The May 50K fundraisers walked, ran and rode over 500,000 kilometres last month. The May 50K is a virtual event where people around the world run, walk or ride 50 kilometres throughout May to raise money for MS research and improving access to treatment. Despite fundraising in hard times, more than 13,000 participants raised over £1,075,000 across 45 countries. 🏆

This year, the global movement came together again to deliver the May 50K with MSIF, [MS Australia](#), [Esclerosis Múltiple Argentina](#), [MS Society of Canada](#), [MS Ireland](#), [UK MS Society](#), and [Stichting MS Research](#) in the Netherlands. Money raised through The May 50K supports global, and national MS research, and work to grant access to treatments worldwide. 💪

RAGAMS members and friends in Australia joined up and formed a team in the May MSA 50K event. <https://www.themay50k.org/fundraisers/rotaryactiongroupagainstmultiplesclerosis>

Special mention to Grant Hocking, Virginia Billson and Renae Gentile lead the way and smashed our original target of \$1500 and raised \$4133.

Thank you to all the participants who took part this year!

In future, RAGAMS aims to increase promotion of May as MS Awareness month within Rotary International to help boost Rotarian participation in the MSIF events. **For more information refer to:** <http://www.msif.org>

Houston Convention Hybrid Event June 4-8:

- RAGAMS Real Time Exhibition Booth: NMMS Society
Houston volunteers managed the real time booth from June 4-8, 2022.

Thanks to the team of volunteers in Houston.

- RAGAMS also developed a Virtual Exhibition Booth for paid up Convention Registrants only.



Work in Progress:

The new Rotary year now begins and we must start updating our strategy, prepare the RI RAG Annual Report by October 1, 2022 and planning for the RI convention to be held in Melbourne May 27-31, 2023 <https://convention.rotary.org/en>

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RAGAMS Australia

- The Jacob Taurins Memorial top up PhD Scholarship recipient Vivian Li continuing her research work at Florey Institute

RAGAMS (India)

- Working with the Rotary club of Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas KA; India D3190 to promote and collaborate with the MS Society in India and MSIF to promote MS Awareness in India.
- With the help of RAGAMS (India) we are considering how to improve Social media and website www.rotary-ragmsa.org.
- As India is a large country with more than 1.2 billion population we need to expand our reach to other counties and states. We are considering resource required.

Other points of note:

Consider resumption of fledgling MS Society Vocational exchange training project.

Reconnect and progress communication with PP Lina Lugheresia, Rotaract Club of Ngong Hills D9212 Kenya and Co-ordinator of Intarconnect.

Identify more country managers and invite to Zoom Meetings.

Prepared by: **Diana and Martin Taurins**