

“Aat van Herk wants to cure MS within 50 years with the launch of the Start2Cure Foundation”.

Start2Cure Foundation

The Start2Cure Foundation is a non-profit initiative by Aat van Herk, a successful private investor in Real Estate and Biotech, to cure MS within 50 years. The foundation was founded since neurodegenerative diseases, including Multiple Sclerosis, are worldwide the leading cause of increasing disability among (young) adults. It affects people in the prime of their lives, reducing quality of life, participation in society and life expectancy.

Only a limited number of therapeutic interventions are currently available for these conditions. In addition, no curative or neuro-restorative interventions have yet been developed that can repair a damaged Central Nervous System while that is the biggest unmet medical need of patients. The foundation therefore has a specific research focus and will collaborate internationally with like-minded (family) funds, scientists and investors to achieve its main objectives.

“... I founded the Start2Cure MS Initiative to proactively combat and solve MS. The foundation is a professional, entrepreneurial organization with very capable and truly dedicated people. I have complete confidence they will safeguard the long-term vision and achieve its mission ... ”Aat van Herk (founder and chairman Start2Cure)

Mission and vision

Start2Cure's mission is to take a leadership role by supporting scientists tackling the toughest challenges in MS research on a global scale and invest in young talent, bold new ideas and scientific approaches to finally end MS for good. Our philosophy is to engage with the very best people, identify the best practices and ideas, and work collaboratively on a global scale to drive and accelerate neuro-restorative therapeutic innovation from the lab to the clinic. Ultimately, we envision a future in which the debilitating course of Multiple Sclerosis not only is halted but also improved and lost function caused by neurodegeneration is restored.

“... As the Managing Director we aim to become the international expert foundation in neuro-regenerative MS research. It will act as an incubator catalyzing and accelerating new medical interventions reaching patients. I am honored to lead our mission and convinced that repairing the central nervous system one day will be possible... ”Boaz Spermon (Managing Director Start2Cure)

The foundation will combine Van Herk Ventures' many years of accumulated biotechnological investment expertise with high-quality medical science in a Venture Philanthropic Investment model. With this strategy, Start2Cure tries to de-risk emerging and innovative research fields such as neuroregeneration and to offer scientists the opportunity to conduct potentially disruptive medical research. The Start2Cure Foundation invests today in the MS diagnostics and therapeutic interventions of tomorrow.

“... For the past 14 years, I have worked very closely with Mr. Van Herk and have witnessed first-hand what the effect of MS and its debilitating course can be on the patient and their family. Being part of a team working to cure MS is therefore very dear to me. I am sure we will find a cure and that day will be an amazing day. Let's Start 2 Cure... ”Dharminder Chahal (Vice-chairman and board member Start2Cure)

Note for editors

For more information, please contact Boaz Spermon (Managing Director of Start2Cure) at boaz@start2cure.org.

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