

TV host Phil Keoghan and professional women cyclists join Novartis to raise awareness of multiple sclerosis

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- - "Together in MS" partners professional cycling team members with people living with MS for Bike MS rides on tandem bicycles across the country
- - Phil Keoghan, MS advocate and TV host, rides tandem with an inspirational woman living with MS
- - Campaign builds on success of "NOW and Novartis for MS" in 2011

EAST HANOVER, N.J., May 8, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Phil Keoghan, host of "The Amazing Race," and the women cyclists of the professional "NOW and Novartis for MS" team are joining with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation for a second year in a row to raise awareness of MS. The campaign, "Together in MS," will support the MS community and show that MS does not have to define the more than 400,000 people in the U.S. living with the disease.

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This year, Together in MS will partner Keoghan and a group of world class, professional women cyclists with people living with MS to ride tandem bicycles in National MS Society Bike MS events across the country. Keoghan will ride tandem with Regina Lyalls, a dedicated mother, passionate MS advocate, and driven professional who refuses to let her relapsing MS define her.

"I am a passionate MS advocate, and raising awareness for MS is something that I've been involved with for years," said Keoghan. "Novartis shares my longstanding commitment, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to work together once again to educate and empower people living with this potentially disabling disease. Riding tandem with Regina is going to be a thrill. She's an incredible woman and an inspiration to us all."

Lyalls, Keoghan's tandem cycling partner, has a unique – and very meaningful – connection to the Bike MS program. "I signed up for my first ride before I knew I had MS," said Lyalls. "On the same day I received my registration packet, my doctor called with my MS diagnosis. But I didn't let my MS define me then – and I'm looking forward to riding tandem with Phil to show others living with MS that they can still aspire to do great things."

The tandem cycling tour begins on May 12 near Minneapolis-St. Paul with five stops nationwide. In each city, Novartis will host rallies open to ride participants and local MS community members and supporters. Attendees will have the chance to meet with the team as well as learn valuable tips from the professional riders.

"Together in MS is an exciting opportunity for Novartis and our way to support people with multiple sclerosis and their loved ones," said Andre Wyss, President of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. "We are committed to supporting the MS community and this is a commitment that we each take very personally. I'm

especially proud that hundreds of our employees will be participating as part of Team Novartis in more than 20 National MS Society Bike MS events across the country."

Together in MS builds on the success of NOW and Novartis' collaborative 2011 initiative, which inspired thousands of people while cycling over 650 miles at 10 Bike MS events throughout the country.

For more information about Together in MS, including a schedule of rides and events and ways to show support or become involved, visit www.TogetherInMS.com.

Multiple Sclerosis

While there is still much to be understood about multiple sclerosis, it is thought to be an autoimmune disease that attacks the central nervous system – the brain, spinal cord and nerve fibers to the eyes. MS is chronic, progressive and often debilitating. Over 400,000 Americans and more than 2.1 million people worldwide are affected by MS.

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Located in East Hanover, New Jersey, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation is an affiliate of Novartis AG, which provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, eye care, cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals, preventive vaccines and diagnostic tools, over-the-counter and animal health products. Novartis is the only global company with leading positions in these areas. In 2011, the Group's continuing operations achieved net sales of USD 58.6 billion, while approximately USD 9.6 billion (USD 9.2 billion excluding impairment and amortization charges) was invested

in R&D throughout the Group. Novartis Group companies employ approximately 124,000 full-time-equivalent associates and operate in more than 140 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

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