

## Media Alert

MS Nurse Professional

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### **1,500 MS nurses across Europe now enrolled into ground-breaking online educational tool, MS Nurse *PROfessional***

#### **Tool designed to standardise care for people with multiple sclerosis across Europe**

**BRUSSELS, THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2014.** The European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) today announces that 1,500 multiple sclerosis (MS) nurses have enrolled for the ground-breaking online tool, MS Nurse *PROfessional*, since its launch in 2012. The highly accredited programme is a first and important step towards consolidating standards of MS nursing care across Europe and is the result of collaboration between leading patient groups and professional organisations.

Before this, the definition and recognition of the MS Nurse role had been inconsistent with no recognised clinical competencies or core skill set reflecting what an MS Nurse does, to ensure high quality support for people living with MS. MS is different for each person affected and this is why specialised MS nursing should be a crucial feature in providing individualised treatment and rehabilitation. Many MS Nurses have been fulfilling the role without formal accreditation.

Established through the EMSP, in collaboration with the Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS) and the International Organization of Multiple Sclerosis Nurses (IOMSN), MS Nurse *PROfessional* aims to standardise care for people with MS across Europe. Currently available in four languages (English, Spanish, Czech and Italian), the German language version will be available later this month and roll out across Europe continues through 2014 and into 2015.

MS Nurse *PROfessional* aims to support MS nurses in developing the right knowledge and skills to be an MS Nurse and sets out an agreed set of core competencies that will promote consistency of practice and nursing care across the whole of Europe. It has been accredited by the Royal College of Nursing and International Council of Nursing and endorsed by a multitude of MS patient advocacy groups.

To experience the online tool visit [www.msnursepro.org](http://www.msnursepro.org) and use password **MSPROUK0603**

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### **INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE**

- Anne Winslow, President of EMSP
- Vicki Matthews, MS Specialist Nurse Advisor, Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS) and a member of the MS Nurse *PROfessional* Steering Committee

### **What is MS?**

MS is a complex, chronic, disabling disease. It affects twice as many women as men, and is usually first diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40, at a critical stage in adult life. To date, no cure exists. It is estimated that there are more than 700,000 persons with MS in Europe.

### **About the EMSP**

The European MS Platform (EMSP) represents the interests of people with MS at the European level, working with the European bodies on behalf of its 39 societies in 34 European countries to achieve its goals of high quality & equitable treatment and support for all citizens suffering from MS.

*This activity is supported by educational grants from founding and lead support Novartis and co-supporters Biogen Idec, Genzyme, Teva and Bayer HealthCare*

For more information including country breakdown of registrants or to set up an interview please contact:

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