

Multiple sclerosis patients see hope in Ann romney's fight about MS using biotech drugs

Ann Romney's poise as she addresses the Republican National Convention gives hope to 2.5 million multiple sclerosis sufferers, while showing how far biotechnology companies have come toward curing the once "untreatable" disease, experts told the Herald.

"Her own experience of living with MS has helped bring understanding about an unpredictable, chronic disease that has as many different faces and stories as the people living with it," said Arney Rosenblat, spokeswoman for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

MS, which affects each sufferer differently, attacks the central nervous system and can cause numbness in the limbs, loss of vision and paralysis. Yet there are now eight drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration designed to treat relapsing MS, Rosenblat said, adding there are also "multiple" MS therapies in late-stage development or before the FDA.

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