



Fall 2025

SMA Community Update from Novartis

Dear SMA Community:

We hope that you are enjoying cooler temperatures, changing seasons, and settling into a new fall routine.

Over the past few months, we've been inspired by the continued strength, unity, and advocacy across the SMA community. In this community update, we're excited to share highlights from recent events and initiatives.

Read on to learn more about:

- [Hope on the Hill](#)
- [Trailblazing through Durango! Tetradapt Foundation Challenge](#)
- [Chapter & Leadership Meeting](#)
- [Walk-n-Roll: New Jersey](#)
- [SMAshing My Limits Campaign](#)

We look forward to continuing to provide timely updates as they become available and seeing you in person at future SMA events.

With gratitude,

Your Novartis Team

Hope on the Hill

The Novartis team was thrilled to be a sponsor for this year's **Hope on the Hill**. At the evening reception, advocates from 34 states were recognized for their collective impact—both during Hill Day and through year-round efforts.

The program featured powerful community speakers and distinguished guests who highlighted SMA priorities.



Maxwell G., Amy K., Lesley M., Alison H., Carissa H., and Derrick L. from the Novartis team enjoyed an evening of advocacy and community at Hope on the Hill 2025.

Trailblazing through Durango! Tetradapt Foundation Challenge

This fall, Novartis teams participated in the Valkyrie Multisport Relay in Durango, CO, joining forces for a weekend of running, biking, kayaking, and swimming to support the **Tetradapt Foundation's** mission of empowering adaptive athletes.

Our Valkyrie team raised awareness and funds for innovative programs like TetraSki, continuing Novartis' commitment to inclusive, active lifestyles and ongoing partnership with Tetradapt.



Marie-Andree C., Derrick L., Scott G., Monica M., Mike B., Fernanda C.R., Brad C., Jocelyn S., and Robert O. represented our Valkyrie crew in the multi-sport relay.

Chapter & Leadership Meeting

The **Cure SMA Chapter & Leadership Meeting** brought together volunteer leaders from across the country for a day of learning, collaboration, and action. Attendees gained new tools and insights to strengthen local advocacy, enhance fundraising efforts, and expand community support—advancing Cure SMA’s mission nationwide. Novartis was proud to serve as a National Presenting Sponsor for this impactful meeting.

Carol Welch and **Lesley Milliner**, **Novartis Patient and Community Liaisons (PCLs)**, attended the meeting and shared how meaningful it was to connect directly with the SMA community:

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It was a tremendous honor to attend the Cure SMA Chapter & Leadership Meeting, where I truly enjoyed speaking with patients and their families and meeting the dedicated team from Cure SMA. I look forward to continuing to support patient events in my role as a PCL.

- Carol

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The Cure SMA Chapter Leadership Summit was incredibly inspiring. Leaders from across the country shared successes, explored improvements, and collaborated on how to better support their states. I was truly impressed by the passion, professionalism, and advocacy shown throughout the event.

- Lesley



Lesley M., Carol W., Amy K., Carissa H., and Alison H. attended the Cure SMA Chapter & Leadership Meeting.

Walk-n-Roll: New Jersey

The Novartis team enjoyed meeting individuals and families living with SMA at the recent **Cure SMA Walk-n-Roll in Edison, NJ.**

The event brought together over 150 participants and raised more than \$17,000 to support research and patient care—celebrating how far the SMA community has come through relentless advocacy, innovation, and unity.



Patricia R., Balu N., and Beth S. from Novartis hosted a booth with coloring books and wheelchair bags for participants.

SMashing My Limits Campaign

In our last update, we introduced **SMashingMyLimits.com**, our new campaign that celebrates the everyday accomplishments of the SMA community.

In this update, we wanted to take a moment to **spotlight Charlie**, who is finishing high school, competing in wheelchair basketball, and chasing his goals. Click [here](#) to visit the website and watch Charlie SMASH limits. You can also find the latest updates on [Instagram](#).



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