



Reimagining medicine, together.

SUMMER 2026

SMA Community Update From Novartis

Dear SMA Community:

Wherever this summer finds you, we hope it has brought opportunities to connect, recharge, and celebrate the moments that matter most.

As we reflect on recent community gatherings and look ahead to exciting initiatives on the horizon, we are pleased to share the latest news and updates from the SMA community.

Read on to learn more about:

- **Cure SMA's Annual SMA Conference**
 - Novartis Chapter Leadership Reception
 - Adaptive Sports and Recreation
 - Aquatic Therapy
 - SMAshing My Limits... And Going Places
- **Summit of Strength and Walk-n-Rolls**

With gratitude,
Your Novartis Team

We Loved Seeing Community Members at the Annual SMA Conference

Thank you to **Cure SMA** for bringing the SMA community together for their 37th annual conference. Novartis was proud to be a Presenting Sponsor to help support bringing individuals with SMA, SMA families, health care providers, and researchers together from all over the world for impactful discussions and connection. Attending and sponsoring this conference continues to be a privilege, with the opportunity to listen and learn from the SMA community. Read on to hear about how Novartis was able to play a role in the successful event!

Chapter Leadership Reception

Cure SMA's 37 local chapters play a vital role in supporting and connecting individuals and families across the SMA community. On June 24, ahead of the Annual SMA Conference, Novartis sponsored a reception for more than 60 chapter leaders to connect and share successes, challenges, and unmet needs.



Amy and Katie (Novartis) present at the Chapter Leadership Reception.

Throughout the afternoon, chapter leaders exchanged perspectives on topics such as expanding access to adaptive sports and recreation programs, and the growing importance of visible adult role models within the SMA community. These conversations highlighted both the progress being made and the opportunities that remain to help ensure individuals with SMA have greater access to the resources, opportunities, and connections that support their goals and interests.

The Novartis team was honored to learn from chapter leaders and grateful for the opportunity to engage in these meaningful discussions. Novartis remains committed to partnering with Cure SMA and the broader SMA community to help address important challenges and support initiatives that matter most to people living with SMA and their families.

Conference Spotlight: The **Novartis Teen Lounge** provided a dedicated space for teens to relax and to meet other teens.

Learn More About the Adaptive Sports and Recreation Programs

Adaptive Sports for All

The **Adaptive Sports for All** panel shared personal testimonials of individuals living with SMA active in various adaptive sports and recreation programs, such as wheelchair basketball, power soccer, and volt hockey. The panelists Marley Robinson, Ed Bronsdon, Kurt Beach, and Charlie Zerzan are shown in the image to the right. Panelist Alyssa Briglio is not pictured.



"I'm thrilled to see the Adaptive Sports panel still going strong in year 3! It's such a fun session, and a valuable resource for our families. I'm already seeing the athletes in our community finding each other and building relationships because of that connection." - SMA Community Member

Accessible Joy: Recreation Without Limits



The **Accessible Joy: Recreation Without Limits** session discussed panelists' personal experiences in a variety of activities, including skiing, fiber arts, and graphic design. The image to the left features Doug McCullough, Corey Ragan, Kassie Manchester, Ed Bronsdon, and Janelle Fiesta.

Novartis was a proud sponsor of the Annual SMA Conference **adaptive sports and recreation panel sessions**, and Novartis continues to support adaptive sports through Cure SMA's **Adaptive Sports & Recreation Webinars and Panels**.

Aquatic Therapy Sessions Make a Splash

Aquatic Therapy

This year also marked the debut of Aquatic Therapy, delivered in partnership with an experienced team of aquatic physical therapists. Aqua therapy can aid people of all ages with developing functional strength in a different environment.

Novartis is proud to have presented 5 of these sessions throughout the conference weekend, and we hope that participants enjoyed this newly offered activity!



Share Your SMA Story With Us!

We know that each SMA journey is unique and would like the opportunity to learn from you. If you would like to **share your SMA experience with Novartis**, please email us at **SMApartners@yuzuzest.com**.

If you are under 18 and would like to participate, your parent or guardian will need to provide consent for you. Novartis will never share your information or ask you to participate in activities without your consent.

SMashing My Limits... And Going Places

SMashing My Limits was back at the **Annual SMA Conference!**

We know that accessibility is more than just a wider doorframe. Through our collaboration with Becoming rentABLE, we increased the number of short-term rental homes that are available across the country, including beach houses, tree houses, yurts and more, and highlighted some of them at the conference!

Check out a video of our patient advocate partner, Cory Lee, exploring one of the accessible properties on our website, along with helpful travel resources:

[SMashingMyLimits.com](https://smashingmylimits.com).



Summit of Strength and Walk-n-Rolls Continue to Make an Impact in the Community

Summit of Strength

Summit of Strength provides people with SMA and their caregivers the chance to learn about advocacy and recent treatment advances, as well as **network** with each other. This **free educational program** is open to people with all types of SMA, and all ages.

Discover a Summit taking place near you at the following webpage:



Discover a Summit near you:

[Find a Summit](#)

Walk-n-Rolls

Walk-n-Roll events serve as an opportunity to raise funds to support research, advocacy, and support programs. These events have continued for the past 25 years.

Discover a Walk-n-Roll taking place near you at the following webpage:



Find your local Walk-n-Roll here:

[Find a Walk-n-Roll](#)

We look forward to meeting some of you at an upcoming Summit of Strength or Walk-n-Roll event soon!

