



ANNUAL NEUROLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Living Well with a
Neurological Diagnosis
Relationships, Resilience,
and Real-World Tools

November 17, 2026

Vestavia Hills Civic Center | Vestavia Hills, Alabama

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Beverly Thorn

Published author & nationally recognized pain psychology expert

Dr. Emily Riser

Neurologist & recognized MS expert

2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

A neurological diagnosis can change life in an instant, bringing uncertainty, difficult decisions, shifting relationships, and new challenges for individuals, families, and those supporting their care.

The Tanner Foundation's Annual Neurological Symposium is an intimate, single-day gathering that equips people living with neurological disease, care partners, and healthcare professionals with trusted education, practical resources, and expert insight to help them move forward with confidence.

This year's theme, *Living Well with a Neurological Diagnosis: Relationships, Resilience, and Real-World Tools*, reflects our commitment to practical, person-centered education that supports quality of life across the disease journey.

The 2026 symposium will feature:

- A full day of programming with two distinct tracks, one for healthcare professionals and one for people with lived experience and their care partners, so every attendee's interests are covered
- Featured plenary sessions with Dr. Emily Riser and Dr. Beverly Thorn
- A dedicated patient & care partner panel, and CE-eligible clinical content for healthcare professionals
- A welcoming exhibitor area for community and healthcare resource partners
- The Tanner Foundation anticipates welcoming approximately 150 attendees. Registration is free for patients and care partners, and \$85 for healthcare professionals earning CE credits.

FEATURED SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Beverly Thorn, PhD, ABPP

Published Author | Board-Certified Clinical Health Psychologist | Professor Emerita, University of Alabama

Dr. Thorn spent 30 years on the psychology faculty at the University of Alabama, including 15 years directing the Clinical Psychology PhD program. A nationally recognized authority on chronic pain, she received the American Pain Society's 2018 Wilbert E. Fordyce Clinical Investigator Award and has published more than 50 articles and book chapters, including the widely used clinical text *Cognitive Therapy for Chronic Pain: A Step-by-Step Guide*.

She is also the author of the newly released memoir *Before I Lose My Own Mind: Navigating Life as a Dementia Caregiver*, drawn from her own years caring for her late husband through his Alzheimer's diagnosis. Her dual perspective — as both a leading clinical researcher and a family caregiver who has lived the journey — speaks directly to this year's theme of relationships, resilience, and real-world tools.

Dr. Emily Riser, MD

Founder, The Tanner Foundation | Director, Tanner Center for Multiple Sclerosis

Dr. Riser is a board-certified neurologist and one of Alabama's leading experts in the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. She founded the Tanner Foundation in 2003 and directs the Tanner Center for Multiple Sclerosis at Alabama Neurology Associates, a Comprehensive Center for Excellence recognized by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

WHO ATTENDS

People Living with Neurological Conditions

- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Related neurological diagnoses

Care Partners & Family Caregivers

Individuals navigating the day-to-day realities of supporting someone with neurological disease.

Healthcare Professionals

- Neurologists, rehabilitation physicians, and nurses
- Physical, occupational, and speech-language therapists
- Social workers and mental health professionals
- Care coordinators and allied health professionals

WHY THIS MATTERS

This is a grassroots, community-rooted event — small enough that sponsors and attendees see and thank each other by name, not a regional convention. The Tanner Foundation occupies a unique space at the intersection of patients, care partners, and providers, creating a rare day of shared education and connection.

Sponsors help keep this day free for the patients and families who need it most, while gaining warm, visible recognition in front of a small, deeply engaged local audience — the kind of goodwill a large convention sponsorship can't buy.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

TIME	PROGRAM
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration / Continental Breakfast / Exhibitor Networking
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks Foundation Welcome: housekeeping / CE notes / sponsor acknowledgment
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Plenary Session I — Dr. Emily Riser (clinical innovation / practical neurological care / partnership lens)
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Refreshment Break / Exhibitor Engagement
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Plenary Session II — Dr. Beverly Thorn (resilience / caregiving / coping / emotional wellness / practical tools)
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Networking Lunch / Exhibitor Engagement (This is where the lunch sponsor fits beautifully)
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Breakout Session Block I Track A: People Living with Neurological Disease + Care Partners (practical tools / communication / shared decision-making / resources) Track B: Healthcare Professionals (CE-focused clinical/professional content)
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Transition / Refreshment Break / Exhibitor Engagement
2:15 – 3:15 PM	Breakout Session Block II Track A: Track B:
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Transition Break
3:30 – 4:15 PM	Joint Closing Conversation Panel Potential Topics: • Physician Innovation • What Excites Us in Neurological Care • Patient/Provider Partnership Discussion • Cross-Track Reconvening
4:15 – 4:30 PM	Closing Remarks / CE Instructions / Sponsor Thanks

Shaded rows indicate high-visibility sponsor moments — meals and breaks are all available as named sponsorships below.

SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Presenting Sponsor \$7,500 | Exclusive, Limit 1

The Symposium's premier sponsorship opportunity, providing exclusive title recognition and the highest level of visibility before, during, and after the event.

- Exclusive "Presenting Sponsor" designation across event materials
- Premier logo placement on all Symposium marketing and signage
- Recognition from the podium during opening and closing remarks
- Opportunity to provide a brief welcome (2-3 minutes)
- Recognition on the Tanner Foundation website and social media
- Premium exhibit placement in the exhibitor area
- First right of refusal for future presenting sponsorship opportunities
- Four complimentary registrations

Keynote Sponsor \$5,000 | Exclusive, Limit 2

Underwrite one of our two featured speakers' honorarium, travel, and other expenses for special recognition during their speech.

- Opportunity to select one of our two keynote speakers to sponsor (first come, first serve)
- Recognition from the podium before the selected speaker's session
- Recognition in printed program as [Speaker]'s session made possible by [Sponsor]"
- Recognition on Symposium signage
- Recognition on Symposium webpage
- Premium exhibit table in the exhibitor area
- Opportunity to insert printed promotional materials with the speaker's book
- Four complimentary registrations

Industry Partner \$2,500

Designed for pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, healthcare organizations, and other industry partners seeking meaningful engagement with patients, care partners, healthcare professionals, and community leaders.

- Premium exhibit table in the exhibitor area
- Logo recognition on Symposium signage
- Logo recognition in the printed program
- Recognition on the Symposium webpage
- Recognition during sponsor acknowledgments
- Opportunity to distribute approved educational materials
- First opportunity to select Exclusive Mission Sponsorship Add-ons
- Two complimentary registrations

Community Resource Partner \$500

Designed for local nonprofits, community organizations, therapy providers, home health agencies, support groups, senior services, and other organizations providing valuable resources to attendees.

- Inclusion at the community resource table
- Logo included in community sponsor recognition
- Recognition in the printed program
- Recognition on the Symposium webpage
- Opportunity to connect attendees with local resources and services
- One complimentary registration

EXCLUSIVE MISSION SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

These opportunities allow sponsors to directly support key aspects of the Symposium experience while demonstrating their commitment to improving quality of life for individuals with neurological disease. All are available either as a standalone purchase or as an add-on to any tier above.

Education Access Sponsor \$2,500 | Exclusive, Limit 1

Helps ensure that every patient and care partner can attend the Symposium free of charge by supporting educational materials, attendee resources, and overall access to the event.

- Exclusive recognition as the Education Access Sponsor
- Recognition during opening remarks
- Recognition in printed materials
- Recognition on Symposium webpage
- Special acknowledgment on attendee education materials or welcome messaging

Lunch Sponsor \$2,000 | Exclusive, Limit 1

Supports lunch catering for all attendees, including patients, care partners, healthcare workers, and industry professionals.

- Exclusive recognition as the official Lunch Sponsor
- Company logo displayed during the lunch period
- Verbal recognition from the podium before lunch
- Recognition in the program and event signage
- Recognition on Symposium website and social media
- Opportunity to place one branded item or literature piece at lunch tables (if appropriate)

Community Outreach Sponsor \$1,500 | Exclusive, Limit 1

Supports community awareness efforts that connect individuals and families affected by neurological disease with this educational opportunity.

- Recognition on promotional and outreach materials
- Logo recognition on Symposium webpage
- Recognition in the printed program
- Recognition during opening remarks
- Social media recognition leading up to the event

Technology & Innovation Sponsor \$1,000 | Exclusive, Limit 1

Supports the audiovisual technology and presentation experience that allows speakers and educational content to be delivered effectively throughout the day.

- Recognition on presentation slides throughout the Symposium
- Recognition in printed materials
- Recognition on Symposium webpage
- Recognition during opening remarks

Networking Break Sponsor \$500 | Limit 3

Supports one of the Symposium's networking breaks, creating opportunities for attendees to connect with exhibitors, healthcare professionals, and one another.

- Recognition during one designated networking break
- Break area signage
- Recognition in the printed program
- Recognition on Symposium webpage

Patient & Care partner Travel and Respite Fund \$5+

Registration is already free for patients and care partners, so the greatest barriers to attending are getting here and finding care for a loved one for the day. Gifts of any size go directly toward gas or rideshare assistance, respite care so a care partner can attend, and lodging for families traveling from farther away.

IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS

Not every valuable partner writes a check. The Tanner Foundation welcomes in-kind contributions valued at the equivalent cash tier for recognition purposes, including:

- Printing or signage for the program and event materials
- Catering, breakfast, or lunch donation
- Raffle or door-prize items
- Venue AV support (microphones, projector, sound)
- Gas cards or travel gift cards for the Travel & Respite Fund

(In-kind value is assessed by the Foundation and matched to the nearest cash tier's recognition benefits.)

MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

Sponsors who commit across multiple years are recognized accordingly:

- 2-year commitment: 5% discount off the selected tier, recognized as a Sustaining Partner
- 3-year commitment: 10% discount off the selected tier, recognized as a Founding Partner, with logo included in early promotional materials, plus first right of refusal on the following year's top-tier sponsorship

ABOUT THE TANNER FOUNDATION

The Tanner Foundation exists to enhance the lives of people affected by neurological disease through education, partnership, and practical support.

Inspired by the journey of Tony Tanner, who lived with Multiple Sclerosis, the Foundation works to improve quality of life for individuals and families navigating complex neurological diagnoses through meaningful education, community connection, and collaborative initiatives.

CONTACT

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SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

We're delighted to have you join us in supporting this year's Symposium.

Please complete the information below and return it to Melissa Enfinger at the contact information above.

Organization Name

Contact Name

Email

Phone

Sponsorship Tier / À La Carte Item(s) Selected

Total Investment

Payment Method (Check / Credit Card / ACH / Invoice Requested)

Signature

Date

Please submit logo files (vector .eps, .ai, or high-resolution .png) no later than four weeks prior to the event to ensure inclusion in all printed materials.

Thank you for helping make this year's Symposium possible.