

# Inside TSA

The Quarterly Newsletter of the national Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.

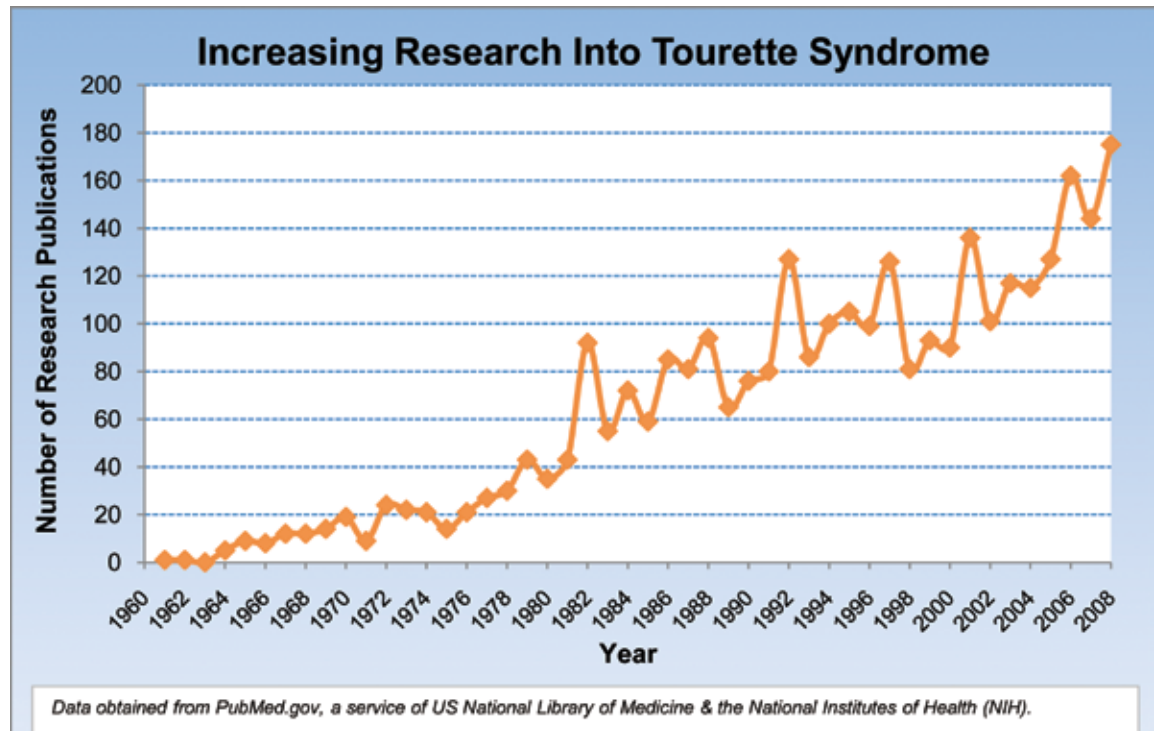
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## Tourette Syndrome Research: Past, Present and the Future

The discovery of Tourette Syndrome (TS) in 1885 occurred during a period when several other neurological disorders, such as Parkinson's disease (1817), Lou Gehrig's disease (1869) and Huntington's disease (1872), were also reported for the first time. While the discovery of these latter conditions immediately attracted much clinical and scientific study, research into TS was delayed, perhaps because of the belief that the disorder was extremely rare. However, interest in TS began to increase in the 1960s, and received a substantial boost in the 1970-80s when the TSA sought to increase awareness, provide funding for research and encourage investigators to consider studying the disorder.

Today, some of the most accomplished and internationally renowned clinicians and scientists are studying various aspects of TS in the U.S. and around the world. In particular, there are intense efforts aimed at determining the cause(s) of TS and broadening our understanding of the nerve cell changes that occur in the brains of people affected by the disorder. These studies are



*This figure shows that research into TS has been steadily increasing since the mid-1960s to the present time. Although there can be year-to-year fluctuations in research activity and output, it is clear that the overall trend is upwards. The TSA is aiming to further stimulate research into the disorder and hopes to see significant breakthroughs in the future.*

not merely designed to satisfy "academic curiosity," but rather hold the promise of providing breakthroughs that may well lead to the development of more effective and safer medical, behavioral and surgical therapies. These treatments are urgently needed to manage tics and other symptoms that are a daily experience of individuals with TS.

### TSA Heroes

The TSA continues to play a major role in facilitating research into the disorder. In doing so, we rely to a great extent on our scientific and medical advisory boards (SAB and MAB) for guidance as we develop and implement our research agenda. These two boards are made up of leading clinicians and scientists who volunteer their

considerable expertise and personal time to guide the TSA about the merit of grant proposals, as well as decisions concerning matters of scientific and medical policy. Their contributions are helping to unravel the mysteries of TS. That is why we believe that the SAB and MAB members are heroes

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