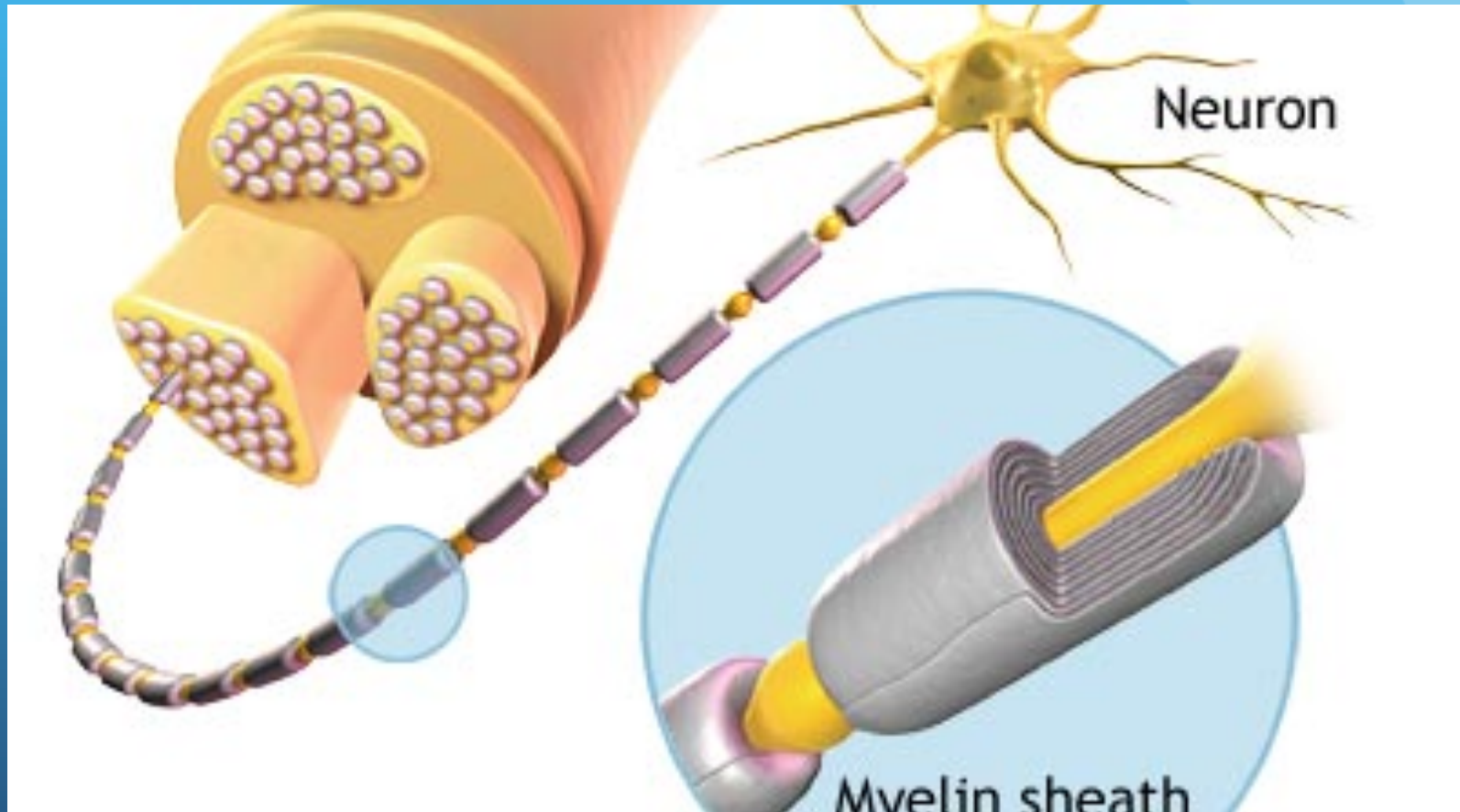


# Multiple Sclerosis

By: Robert Martin



# What is Multiple Sclerosis?

- An autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system of the nervous system
- If the damage is severe enough, the nerves can deteriorate
- With damage being done to nerves, symptoms will vary depending on what nerves are being affected.

# What causes MS?

- Caused by damage to the myelin sheath, a protective covering that surrounds the nerve cells
- Nerve signals then become slowed down or ever stopped

# Diagnosing MS

- Hard to diagnose to see if you actually have MS
- Tests can be done to help rule out other diseases closely related
- Spinal taps, and blood tests show if it would be another disease
- MRI's show lesions which can appear with myelin loss
- Evoked potential tests measure the electrical signals

# Are there any cures available?/ treatments

- No cures are available as of today just like Parkinson's Disease.
- Medications that help reduce symptoms and progression, but nasty side effects
- newly found drug in Sweden, looks as if it reverses and can possibly repair damage done
- Maybe available within 5 years

# Economic Point Of View

- U.K about 85,000 people live with MS (in pounds):
- Informal/professional care:(\$1.758 billion)
- medication: (\$168 million)
- disability aids: (\$54 million)
- medical tests: (\$8.7 million)
- This doesn't count the lost opportunity costs of not being able to work. For the U.S. the costs are about five times more

# Works Cited

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