

**Sarah Jones, Founder and CEO of Parkinson & Movement Disorder (PMD) Alliance Retires.
Andrea Merriam named CEO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 15, 2022

CONTACT: Debbie Rich, Director, Communications debbie@pmdalliance.org

(Tucson, AZ) Founder and CEO of Parkinson and Movement Disorder Alliance, Sarah Jones, has retired from her role. Since its inception 7 years ago, Sarah has worked to create a nimble organization that serves the Movement Disorder Care & Support Ecosystem© through developing and delivering innovative programs focusing on education, connection and community. Her tenure brought PMD Alliance to the forefront, receiving accolades for bridging gaps in support programs and becoming a voice for people with Parkinson's, their care partners, and the support systems that surround them. Sarah has moved into the role "Of Counsel". As the builder of this unique organization, using the tenants of Design Thinking to address the gaps in support services for the Movement Disorders Care & Support Ecosystem©, she will continue to serve as a strategy advisor.

PMD Alliance's Board of Directors has named Andrea Merriam CEO of the organization. Andrea has served in a variety of positions with PMD Alliance, most recently as Acting CEO, shepherding the organization through the end of the pandemic while ensuring that programming remained robust in meeting the ever-changing needs of the people impacted by Parkinson disease. As her predecessor, Sarah Jones, shares, "I am grateful for the ability to have been able to coach a successor who I believe will fulfill the mission, vision and purpose of the organization and serve with all of her heart. For the last two years I have been working the succession plan and intentionally preparing Andrea for this role."

Andrea's determination and commitment to the mission positions her to lead PMD Alliance into the future. She has demonstrated her expertise, clear vision and ability to embrace innovation over the past year as Acting CEO, leading PMD Alliance in delivering the inaugural Advanced Therapeutics in Movement Related Disorders™ (ATMRD) Congress, held in partnership with Georgetown University Med-Star Health, in June in Washington, DC. The Congress was well received by all participants and partners, demonstrating that bringing advanced therapies directly to physicians, advanced practice providers, movement disorder fellows and residents is life-changing for those impacted by the disease.

Andrea's vision for the organization moving forward is hyper focused on ensuring that the work we do directly supports the members of the PMD Alliance Ecosystem©. Her chosen priorities

include the Neuro Life Online® programming for care partners and people with Parkinson disease, which brings experts into homes through the click of a button to provide a deeper understanding of the disease and connection through conversations in real time. Her priorities also include engaging with healthcare providers by growing the APProviders™ Consortium for nurse practitioners and physician assistants in movement disorders through providing Continuing Medical Education courses, space for connections through peer networks, and delivering another engaging Advanced Therapeutics in Movement Disorders™ Congress in partnership with Georgetown University MedStar Health.

Lauren Schroeder, MPH, Board Chair and a founding member of PMD Alliance, said, “It has been an honor to serve this organization as Board Chair under the leadership of our former CEO and Founder, Sarah Jones, and I am inspired by the energy, intelligence, empathy and vision, Andrea Merriam will bring to the role.”

About Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance (PMD Alliance)

Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance is an independent, national 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to providing opportunities for people to learn, live life more fully, and spark meaningful connections around them. PMD Alliance serves people across the United States and is not affiliated with any medical practice or institution. PMD Alliance is committed to keeping our community safe and healthy. Visit PMDAlliance.org to learn more.

###