



Press Release Date: October 17, 2022  
Media Contact Information: Norma Pruitt | 877-773-4483  
Executive Director  
Information@SP-Foundation.org  
Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Inc

---

## SPF TALKS WITH DUO DOGS

[Fremont, CA.] – The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation hosts SPF TALKS as an outreach for those living with disabilities through Zoom meetings bringing together people with disabilities and caregivers to identify, gain, and use helpful information. SPF TALKS support a wide range of subject-matter experts on topics designed to help with lifestyle issues, daily and livable concerns.

Register online for SPF TALKS with Duo Dogs on October 23, 2022, at 6:pm, cst. Duo Dogs trains service dogs to assist individuals with physical disabilities. Service Dogs can be placed with individuals with multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, cerebral palsy, stroke, as well as other mobility-related disabilities. The dogs are trained to open doors, retrieve dropped and distant objects, help with undressing, carry bags, and rise to counters — just to name a few of the skills performed. The goal of these placements is to have the dog act as an extension of a person so that they can perform the tasks that may be difficult, or impossible, because of a disability. For more details about Duo Dogs, Contact: Duo Dogs, Inc., 10955 Linpage Place, St. Louis, MO 63132, (314) 997-2325 or visit [DuoDogs.com](http://DuoDogs.com).

SPF is working to build supporters, communities, and organizations worldwide, for the mission of raising awareness and funding for medical research of rare diseases, supporting the vision when all individuals with HSP and PLS are diagnosed, treated, and cured. For more information about the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, HSP, and PLS, or to donate visit [SP-Foundation.org](http://SP-Foundation.org).

---

### About HSP and PLS

Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP) is a group of inherited neurological disorders that are characterized by progressive weakness and stiffness of the legs. Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS), a close genetic cousin of HSP, also is a neurological disorder characterized by progressive muscle weakness in the voluntary muscles. Both conditions are closely related to ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Research into HSP and PLS is leading to much better understanding of all upper motor neuron conditions that impact movement and cognition. It is even benefiting seemingly unrelated conditions such as spinal cord injury. Both HSP and PLS are chronic, degenerative neuromuscular diseases that can greatly diminish the quality of life of those affected and their loved ones. Onset of the disease can begin at any age but most often occurs in adulthood. The inability to walk, walk well, or walk unaided is the most visible symptom for both HSP and PLS. Sufferers may require the use of a cane or walker and, ultimately, many become wheelchair bound. In the case of PLS, the disease also affects muscles in the upper body, causing movement problems with the arms, fine motor control of the hands, speaking, eating, and even swallowing.

### About SPF

The SPF is the only foundation dedicated to finding cures and treatments for HPS and PLS by funding early-stage, medical and scientific research projects. Our all-volunteer Scientific Advisory Board makes sure that it is supporting only the very best research projects. Our highly skilled volunteer staff, Scientific Advisory Board, Medical Advisors, CPA, Attorney, President, and Board Members - are all working hard every day pro bono because they strongly believe in this cause. We know a cure is within reach, and we ask you to please join us in reaching a cure by making a tax-deductible donation. Through education and community, the SPF strives to help people affected by these conditions live fuller, more productive lives. Since its inception in 2002, the SPF has raised over \$11M to further these efforts.

For more information contact Norma Pruitt at [Information@SP-Foundation.org](mailto:Information@SP-Foundation.org) or to provide a tax-deductible donation send to: Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, 1605 Goularte Place, Fremont, CA. 94539.

###