FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spastic Paraplegia Foundation Announces 2026 HSP/PLS Awareness Week
Uniting Through Education, Research, and Hope
August 23–28, 2026
Questions Email: Information@SP-Foundation.org

The **Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF)** is excited to announce its annual **HSP/PLS Awareness Week**, taking place **August 23–28, 2026**, bringing together patients, families, researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals in a united effort to advance awareness, education, research, and hope.

Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP) and Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS) are progressive rare neurological disorders that affect mobility, independence, and quality of life for thousands of individuals worldwide. Although every person's journey is unique, **one common goal unites our community: accelerating research toward meaningful treatments and, ultimately, cures.**

Throughout the week, SPF will host a series of virtual educational programs, **SPF TALKS**, featuring internationally recognized researchers, physicians, patient advocates, and members of the HSP and PLS community. These presentations will highlight the latest scientific discoveries, clinical research, and patient resources that are helping move therapies closer to reality.

Awareness Week will also celebrate the resilience of patients, caregivers, families, researchers, and volunteers whose dedication continues to inspire scientific progress and strengthen advocacy efforts.

"This is more than an awareness campaign," said Norma Pruitt, Executive Director of the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation. **"Awareness is the first step, but action changes lives. Every patient story shared, every researcher supported, every family connected, and every partnership formed brings us one step closer to better treatments for HSP and PLS."**

Throughout the week, participants will have opportunities to:

- Learn from leading researchers and clinicians.
- Hear inspiring stories from patients and caregivers.
- Discover the latest advances in HSP and PLS research.
- Explore ways to participate in research and advocacy.
- Connect with a community united by hope.

Whether you are newly diagnosed, a longtime member of the community, a caregiver, healthcare professional, researcher, or simply someone who wants to learn more, everyone is invited to participate.

Additional details, featured speakers, and a full schedule available on SP-Foundation.org