



## **What is Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP)?**

PSP is a neurodegenerative condition that occurs when a build-up of a protein called tau damages brain cells, particularly in the parts of the brain that control speech, balance, coordination, and eye movement. It is one of a family of neurological conditions called atypical parkinsonisms – which present like Parkinson’s Disease on steroids. Symptoms often initially appear similar to Parkinson’s, however PSP usually progresses more rapidly. There is currently no treatment that effectively stops or slows the progression of PSP, and no known cure for the disease.

## **Who Does PSP Impact?**

It is estimated that PSP impacts more than 30,000 Americans, though the disorder is often misdiagnosed. PSP is aggressive in its progression, with most patients becoming dependent on care from family, friends, and loved ones in just 3 to 4 years after diagnosis.

## **Why the Hummingbird?**

One of the ways PSP is diagnosed and differentiated from Parkinson’s is through signs of midbrain atrophy which can be seen in an MRI scan as resembling a hummingbird. The hummingbird is also a common cultural symbol of resilience, overcoming obstacles, and perseverance.

## **What Can We Do?**

Raising awareness to help better diagnose and understand PSP is critical to getting those affected the care they need. Greater resources are needed to understand the potential causes of this disorder as well as to research effective treatments and cures.