TMJ Association, Ltd.

GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Charting Impact Report * Last Updated on 05.25.2017

This report represents TMJ Association, Ltd.'s responses to Charting Impact, a joint project of BBB Wise Giving Alliance, GuideStar USA Inc, and Independent Sector. Charting Impact uses five simple yet powerful questions to encourage strategic thinking and help organizations share concise information about their plans and progress toward impact.

The TMJ Association's mission is to improve the quality of health care and lives of everyone affected by Temporomandibular (jaw) Disorders. We envision a future where individuals with Temporomandibular Disorders will receive a timely and accurate diagnosis, followed by high-quality comprehensive medical care, and safe and effective treatment, that is informed by the latest and most rigorous scientific evidence.

The content of this Charting Impact Report is the sole product and responsibility of TMJ Association, Ltd.. This report does not in any way represent an endorsement from Independent Sector, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, or GuideStar, nor does it represent fulfillment of the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. For more information on Charting Impact, visit www.guidestar.org/chartingimpact
1. What are we aiming to accomplish?
We envision a future where individuals with Temporomandibular Disorders will receive a timely and accurate diagnosis, followed by high-quality comprehensive medical care, and safe and effective treatment, that is informed by the latest and most rigorous scientific evidence.

2. What are our strategies for making this happen?
We achieve our mission by advocating for the needs of TMJ patients, promoting awareness of temporomandibular disorders among the public, policy makers, research and health care communities, connecting TMJ patients with those who can provide knowledgeable support and empathetic understanding, encouraging basic and clinical research, periodically convening international scientific meetings, serving as a resource for the collection and dissemination of information on advances of research, treatment, insurance practices, patient's rights, and legal and ethical issues, and communicating with elected officials, government agencies, professional organizations, community leaders and other policy makers concerning TMD issues.

3. What are our organization's capabilities for doing this?
The TMJ Association is led by Terrie Cowley, a TMJ patient and co-founder. Terrie's enduring work and dedication has been instrumental in increasing awareness of the needs of Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD) patients among key groups, including the public, patients, health care providers, policy makers, Congress, the NIH and media. Through her leadership the Association works toward its goal to establish safe and effective means of diagnosis, treatment and ultimately, prevention of TMD. Christin Veasley is the Director and Co-Founder of the TMJ Association's Chronic Pain Research Alliance Initiative. Chris has spent her career advocating for rigorous multidisciplinary pain research. She currently serves as a member of several other collaborative alliances, federal committees/initiatives, and public-private partnerships working to promote pain research, education, treatment and prevention. She is the former Executive Director of the National Vulvodynia Association. For over 25 years, the TMJA has communicated with thousands of TMD patients over the years and has firsthand understanding of their needs and concerns. The TMJA benefits from a prestigious Scientific Advisory Board for collaboration and consultation. The TMJA has received a number of grants over the past decade from the National Institutes of Health and other health related foundations and has co-sponsored eight international scientific meetings on TMD.

4. How will we know if we're making progress?
The TMJ Association (TMJA) regularly assess the state of science by reviewing the NIH grant portfolio for Temporomandibular Disorders and reviews the quality of science being funded toward these disorders. Additionally, the TMJA continuously monitors the scientific literature for gaps and advances in research. The TMJA annually surveys its stakeholders for their feedback on their current needs, concerns as well as input on future activities of the TMJA. All of this information helps the TMJA refines its efforts.

5. What have and haven't we accomplished so far?
The TMJ Association (TMJA) has co-sponsored eight scientific meetings with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) resulting in recommendations that set the direction for future Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD) research and NIH funding opportunities. These meetings have been critical to leading the paradigm shift in research from TMD as solely as a localized
orofacial pain condition to a complex multisystem disorder with overlapping comorbidities. The TMJ Association has also adopted the The Chronic Pain Research Alliance (CPRA) as one of its many programs and initiatives. This initiative will expand our existing efforts as we continue to listen to the patients. Scientific research today indicates that the vast majority of TMD patients suffer from other pain conditions addressed by CPRA, furthering TMJA's commitment to addressing the spectrum of medical issues faced by TMD patients. The TMJA has had over 20 consecutive years of advocacy efforts which have resulted in report language. Report language tells agencies of the NIH that elected officials are concerned about specific issues. This directive has a powerful influence on the decisions made by the government agencies. The TMJA has established personal contacts with staff and elected officials, and have garnered their support by reporting regularly on TMD research, as well as letting them know what we, the patients, need. The U.S. Congress remains vigilant to the needs of the TMD patients as well as to the progress the NIH has and continues to make on their behalf. We will continue our efforts until individuals with Temporomandibular Disorders and chronic overlapping pain conditions receive timely and accurate diagnosis, followed by high-quality comprehensive medical care, and safe and effective treatment, that is informed by the latest and most rigorous scientific evidence.