

## Caregiver Partnerships Transcript

Video Title: Gretchen and Michael's Parkinson's Story

[Lilly Neurodegenerative Disease Clinical Trials | Nervous System Health Research](#)

Audio	Speaker	Time
[Piano instrumental]		00:00:00,000
I'm, uh, Gretchen	Gretchen	00:00:03,000
And I'm Michael.	Michael	00:00:04,000
And we both have Parkinson's, and we are also caregivers for each other. Michael's had Parkinson's for 20 years. We met, uh, 16 years ago. And I've had Parkinson's for 17 years. He was actually the very first person that I'd ever met that had Parkinson's.	Gretchen	00:00:06,000
Uh, the issues I were facing were so vastly different that it required a different level of treatment. Our Medical Doctor really put it on the table, as a clinical trial. And it piqued our interest enough that we participated.	Michael	00:00:28,000
The study teams have been, every study	Gretchen	00:00:57,000

team that we've had has been absolutely fabulous. They recognize, they've always recognized the role of the caregiver. It was difficult as a caregiver because I was very symptomatic myself. So, I had, and I had a lot of support from family. But his sister I think put it best when she said, "I learned a lot about you". She said "you're a rock, until he's safe. And then you are free to fall apart". I'm a full believer that a caregiver needs to be, you know, is part of the team from day one. And if Michael is the captain of his team, well I'm the co-captain. Then visa versa, if I am the captain of my team, he's the co-captain.

On the trials that I have been involved with, they have been great about letting Michael, um, you know see and watch and participate.

<p>We were in our 30's during our diagnosis. We didn't go into this whole thing with the idea of it being a romance. We went into it as business partners. Somewhere along the way we realized we made very good business partners. And then we realized we made excellent life partner. And you can't help about...</p>		
<p>Can't argue with that.</p>	<p>Michael</p>	<p>00:02:37,000</p>
<p>You can't help about who you love. There are challenges yes. Faith and humor is what gets us through on a regular basis. Usually, one of us will be falling and we will be laughing asking if we are okay on the way down, only to laugh harder once we find out we are okay.</p>	<p>Gretchen</p>	<p>00:02:39,000</p>