A pathway of progression common to progressive forms of multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, motor neuron disease, and macular degeneration is presented. "Frustrated phagocytosis" may allow immunglobulin amplification of the alternate complement pathway by the complement component C3d, itself indirectly modulated by Factor H.

On the basis of "therapeutic reversals" in visual acuities and Ishihara colour vision scores in patients with progressive multiple sclerosis, a possible beneficial effect in lessening the rate of progression of macular degeneration by any of the three forms of Interferon-beta or Glatiramer acetate in their usual doses in combination with Azathioprine 50mg daily is proposed. The addition of intravenous immunoglobulin to such "combination therapies" may yield additional benefit.

The above may be the first coherent hypothesis of the nature of progression of macular degeneration and a rational therapeutic approach.