

# Annual Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Clinical and Research Hybrid Program Agenda:

## Multiple Sclerosis: A Focus on Smoldering Disease & Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses: A Mini-Symposium



Friday, December 8, 2023

12:00 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.

In-Person: Beechwood Hotel  
363 Plantation St. Worcester, MA.

**Via Zoom 1:00 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.**

(link will be provided 1 day prior to meeting)

**[Register Now](#)** (registration link)

### Course Directors:

- Christopher Hemond, MD, Assistant Professor, Associate Research Director, Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Center
- Carolina Ionete, MD, PhD, Professor, Director, Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Center; Director, Neuro-Inflammatory Chronic Illness (NICI) Initiative

**Program Description:** There have been tremendous advances in the treatment of inflammatory events in Multiple Sclerosis (MS). These successes highlight the primary challenge in MS clinical care, with treatment and prevention of slow (“smoldering”) disease worsening. Smoldering disease is more akin to a neurodegenerative condition, requiring multidisciplinary thought and a multifactorial approach to treatment. Research shows that the symptom most strongly associated with reductions in quality of life is fatigue. Unfortunately, there are no proven treatments to effectively address this problem in MS. We draw parallels to the disease processes of the neuro-immune diseases Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) and Long COVID, for which there are no FDA-approved treatments, yet emerging research suggests potential therapeutic avenues involving immunomodulation.

This UMass Chan Medical School Neuroimmunology/MS CME program covers the latest information on clinical and translational research on different clinical entities, treatments, and mechanisms of autoimmune demyelination involving the central nervous system. The program will focus on the integration of data published in the literature and our own research collaborative work over the last year. This year we will additionally be including a dedicated portion of our meeting to emerging research on the neuroimmune pathophysiology of ME/CFS and Long COVID. This is an opportunity for scientists and clinicians from internal medicine, psychiatry, primary care, and neurology to learn about the most updated information covering different gaps in the knowledge related to clinical aspects and future research directions in neuroimmunology with a focus on multiple sclerosis and ME/CFS and Long COVID.

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this series, attendees should be able to:

- Identify key concepts of the immunologic disease process associated with multiple sclerosis and ME/CFS and Long COVID.
- Provide MS healthcare professionals with the most up-to-date information.
- Learn about cutting-edge biomarkers research.
- Recognize post-infectious syndromes and understand their relevance in Long COVID care.
- Understand ME/CFS and how it can inform Long COVID care.
- Recognize clinical phenotypes associated with post-infectious syndromes and Infection Associated Chronic Illness.

**Highlights:**

Traditional research | Clinical Care | Collaborative International approaches to managing MS – Networking opportunities | Exhibits with the latest in services and products | Social events.

**Target Audience:**

Healthcare professionals-physicians (neurologists, primary care, internists), researchers, post docs, nurses, residents, fellows, medical students, and PhD students.

**Continuing Education Credit:**

The UMass Chan Medical School is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The UMass Chan Medical School designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Nurses:** This program meets the requirements for 7 contact hours for nurses as specified by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (244-CMR 5.04).

**Others:** Other healthcare professionals will receive a certificate that states this activity was designated for 6 **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**.

**Policy on Faculty and Provider Disclosure:** It is the policy of UMass Chan to ensure fair balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all activities. All persons participating in CME activities provided by UMass Chan are required to present evidence-based data, identify any off-label product use, and disclose all relevant financial relationships with those supporting the activity or others whose products or services are discussed. Faculty disclosures will be provided in the activity materials.

**Cancellation policy:** If you cancel your registration before November 25, 2023, your fee is refundable less a processing charge of \$75. After that date, no refund will be given for any reason, including weather and other emergencies, substitutions are always welcome. UMass Chan Office of Continuing Medical Education and the Department of Neurology reserves the right to cancel a program at any time caused by circumstances not under its control. Persons registered in a canceled program will be notified by email, using the email address provided when registering for the program. There may also be changes in the program content caused by circumstances beyond the control of the Office of Continuing Medical Education.

Individual	Role(s)
<b>Christopher Hemond, MD</b> , Assistant Professor, Associate Research Director, Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Center	Course Director Presenter
<b>Carolina Ionete, MD, PhD</b> , Professor, Director, Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Center; Director, Neuro-Inflammatory Chronic Illness (NICI) Initiative	Course Director Presenter
<b>Mustafa Al Gburi, MD</b> , Fellow in Neuroimmunology, Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Center	Presenter
<b>Rigel Chan, PhD</b> , Assistant Professor, Neurology	Presenter
<b>Anna Gil, PhD</b> , Assistant Professor, Pathology	Presenter
<b>Roshan Kumar, PhD</b> , Senior Director, Head of Exploratory Biology and External Innovation, HiFiBio Therapeutics, Cambridge, MA	Presenter
<b>Catarina Mainero, MD, PhD</b> , Associate Professor, Radiology, Harvard Medical School, Director, Multiple Sclerosis Research, A.A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging	Presenter
<b>Netia McCray, BS</b> , Education Director, COVID-19 Longhailer's Advocacy Project (C19-LAP), Founder/Executive Director of Mbadika, a non-profit providing equitable access to STEM education	Presenter
<b>Ellen Mowry, MD</b> , Professor, Director, Multiple Sclerosis Experimental Therapeutics Program	Presenter
<b>Beth Pollack, MPP</b> , Research Scientist, MIT, Biological Engineering, The Tal Research Group	Presenter
<b>Fiachra Humphries, PhD</b> , Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	Presenter
<b>Elisa Bello, MD candidate; Jillian Richmond, PhD</b> , Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology	Presenter
<b>Liisa Selin, MD, PhD</b> , Professor, Pathology; Research Director, Neuro-Inflammatory Chronic Illness (NICI) Initiative	Presenter
<b>Hayla Sluss, PhD</b> , Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology	Presenter
<b>Rebecca Spain, MD</b> , Neurologist, OHSU, Oregon	Presenter
<b>Michal Tal, PhD</b> , Principal Scientist, MIT, Biological Engineering, Associate Scientific Director, MIT Center for Gynepathology Research	Presenter
<b>Raffaella Umeton, MD, MMSc</b> , Director, Headache Center	Presenter
<b>Michael VanElzakker, PhD</b> , Instructor, Neurotherapeutics, Harvard Medical School, Mass General Hospital, Neuroscientist, PolyBio Research Foundation	Presenter
<b>Brayden Yellman, MD</b> , Board-Certified, Internal Medicine, and Rheumatology, Utah	Presenter
<b>Morna Larson</b> , Executive Administrative Assistant	UMassChan
<b>Lynn Hancock</b> , Project Manager	UMassChan
<b>Rivka Solomon, ME/CFS &amp; Long COVID Patient Representative; Special Advisor to the Director, Neuro-Inflammatory Chronic Illness (NICI) Initiative</b>	UMassChan
<b>Sharon Velazquez</b> , Web Communications Specialist	UMassChan

## Annual Neuroimmunology and Multiple Sclerosis Clinical & Research Updates Presentations Agenda, with Q & A, 12/8/2023

<b>12:00 – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration Open &amp; Lunch provided</b>
1:00 – 1:05 pm	Opening Remarks
1:05 – 1:25 pm	New imaging biomarkers to identify smoldering disease – <b>Christopher Hemond, MD</b>
1:25 – 1:50 pm	Imaging chronic neuroinflammation - <b>Caterina Mainero, MD, PhD</b>
1:50 – 2:10 pm	Early MRI features of chronic active lesion formation - <b>Mustafa Al Gburi, MD</b>
2:10 – 2:35 pm	Higher-efficacy therapies in MS: A “one size fits all” approach - <b>Ellen Mowry, MD</b>
2:35 – 2:55 pm	Updates in demyelinating spectrum disease (NMO, MOG, NMOSD) - <b>Raffaella Umeton, MD, MMSc</b>
<b>2:55 – 3:10 pm</b>	<b>BREAK – Coffee &amp; Refreshments</b>
3:10 – 3:30 pm	Cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers of smoldering inflammation in MS – <b>Elisa Bello, MS3; Jillian Richmond, PhD</b>
3:30 – 3:50 pm	High-throughput CSF antibody assessments in MS: new insights into disease pathophysiology - <b>Rigel Chan, PhD</b>
3:50 – 4:15 pm	Lipoic Acid in the treatment of progressive disease - <b>Rebecca Spain, MD</b>
4:15 – 4:30 pm	Innate checkpoints in Multiple Sclerosis – <b>Fiachra Humphries, PhD,</b>
4:30 – 4:50 pm	Mechanistic targets of clinical trials in progressive MS – <b>Carolina Ionete, MD, PhD</b>
<b>4:50 – 5:02 pm</b>	<b>BREAK – Coffee &amp; Refreshments</b>
<b>5:02 – 5:05 pm</b>	<b>Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses: A Mini-Symposium Introduction</b>
5:05 – 5:20 pm	The microglia-neuron interface in ME – <b>Hayla Sluss, PhD</b>
5:20 – 5:45 pm	Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses - <b>Brayden Yellman, MD</b>
5:45 – 6:00 pm	What Does a Long COVID Patient Look Like? - <b>Netia McCray, BS</b>
6:00 – 6:15 pm	A Caregiver and Immunotherapy Researcher’s Perspective - <b>Roshan Kumar, PhD</b>
6:15 – 6:30 pm	Neuroimaging, Neuroinflammation and Vasculature Abnormalities in Long COVID and ME/CFS - <b>Michael VanElzakker, PhD</b>
6:30 – 6:45 pm	Re-examining the Immune-Pathogen Interface in Lyme Disease and Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses – <b>Michal Tal, PhD</b>
6:45 – 7:00 pm	Research on Comorbidity, Shared Pathophysiology, and Lesser Studied Pathologies in Overlapping Infection-Associated Chronic Illnesses - <b>Beth Pollack, MPP</b>
7:00 – 7:15 pm	ME/CFS, Long COVID and T-Cell Exhaustion - <b>Liisa Selin, MD, PhD; Anna Gil, PhD</b>
<b>7:15 – 7:20 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and Adjourn</b>

**2002Registration fees: In-Person and Hybrid**  
*(In-person – includes lunch, snacks & refreshments)*

<b>Physicians</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>All Other Health Professionals</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>UMass Alumnus</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Active Department of Neurology Employee also Residents, Fellows &amp; Students</b>	<b>Free</b>



Department of  
Neurology

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