

International online conference on Progressive Multiple Sclerosis: sharing insights and views to improve patient outcomes

Module 1

January 21, 2026
Webinar

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

An educational programme by



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Aim

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic neuroinflammatory disease that primarily affects young adults, leading to neurological impairment and disability. Traditionally, MS has been categorized into forms such as relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS), primary progressive MS (PPMS), and secondary progressive MS (SPMS). However, it is now acknowledged that the disease should be viewed as a continuum, as inflammation and neurodegeneration coexist from the early phases of the disease.

Disease worsening can be triggered by both acute and chronic inflammatory processes, or it may occur independently of inflammation. Consequently, new concepts have recently emerged, such as smoldering-associated worsening (SAW) and progression independent of relapse activity (PIRA).

New biomarkers have been identified to assess smoldering inflammation, including paramagnetic rim lesions (PRLs) and slowly expanding lesions (SELS) visible on MRI. Additionally, fluid biomarkers are under evaluation for their potential to monitor disease evolution and predict progression in advance.

In recent years, a global effort by researchers has focused on defining the immunopathology, clinical and radiological metrics, and biomarkers specific to progressive MS. The goal is to identify, as early as possible, individuals at higher risk of disability, quantify smoldering damage, and evaluate the effectiveness of new treatments—such as BTK inhibitors—which can cross the blood-brain barrier and target the local innate and adaptive immune systems.

Target Audience

The International Conference is dedicated to a global audience of HCPs biologists with a special interest or focus on MS:

- neurologists
- nurses
- physiotherapists
- pharmacologists.

Learning Objectives

The International Conference aims to achieve the following learning objectives:

- Identify immunopathological hallmarks of progressive MS
- Quantify severity and establish prognosis based on innovative prognostic markers
- Describe new immunological targets of treatments considering the immune players involved in MS
- Detect early symptoms and signs of progression by using conventional and digital assessments
- Discuss the results of clinical trials exploring the efficacy of new treatments, such as BTKs inhibitors, targeting compartmentalized inflammation in MS.



Scientific Organizer



Emmanuelle Waubant
San Francisco, USA

Americas Committee on Treatment and Research in MS - ACTRIMS
Pediatric MS center at UCSF,
Race to Erase MS
International Women in MS



CME Compliance and Accreditation



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Registration



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Scientific Secretariat



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Module I - Agenda

January 21, 2026

Immunopathology and clinical markers of progressive Multiple Sclerosis

Chair: E. Waubant, US

PST	EST	
8.00	11.00	Opening and Introduction - E. Waubant, US
8.15	11.15	L1 Basal and drug induced modification of the immune system: implications for DMT selection and treatment sequencing A. Bar-Or, USA
8.35	11.35	L2 Microglial activation: pathophysiological insights and clinical biomarker potential M. Absinta, USA
8.55	11.55	L3 Progression independent from relapses (PIRA): an evidence based definition and real world Epidemiology J. Oh, Canada
9.15	12.15	L4 Clinical markers and hidden symptoms of Progression: how to identify them in the clinical Setting S.C. Krieger, USA
9.35	12.35	L5 Challenges in clinical trials for progressive MS: endpoints and design R. Fox, US
9.55	12.55	Open Discussion and Q&A
10.15	1.15	Conclusions

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