



**2026
MASTERCLASS
ON PREGNANCY IN
MS AND ANTIBODY
MEDIATED
NEUROLOGICAL
DISEASES**

17-19 June 2026

Rome, Italy

Preliminary Programme

An educational programme in collaboration with



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RATIONALE

Over the past two decades extensive research has established that Multiple Sclerosis (MS) should no longer be considered a barrier to family planning, encouraging a growing number of women with MS to consider motherhood. Concurrently, the earlier and broader use of disease-modifying therapies (DMTs) and the growing role of fertility and assisted reproductive techniques, have increased the complexity of reproductive counseling.

The present Masterclass was conceived to address the rising demand for practical, evidence-based guidance on family planning in MS. The course is specifically designed to answer the most frequently encountered clinical questions faced by neurologists in daily practice, spanning the management of DMTs from preconception to the postpartum period, infection prevention strategies, breastfeeding, and the recognition and treatment of mood disturbances. Alongside practical workshops, leading experts will present and critically discuss the most recent evidence and emerging biomarkers to monitor disease activity aiming to bridge the gap between scientific advances and real-world clinical practice.

Building on the MS experience, this Masterclass adopts a translational and disease-spanning approach to pregnancy management in autoimmune neurological disorders.

Particular focus will be placed on family planning management in Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders (NMOSD) and MOG antibody-associated disease (MOGAD), autoimmune encephalitides, and autoimmune neurological conditions involving the peripheral nervous system, such as Myasthenia Gravis (MG). Across these disorders, the introduction of high-efficacy targeted therapies has fundamentally changed the reproductive outlook, introducing complex diagnostic and therapeutic considerations, ultimately highlighting the need for shared expertise and structured, multidisciplinary management strategies.

Through a combination of lectures delivered by internationally recognized experts, interactive case-based workshops, and follow-up online modules, this Masterclass aims to equip neurologists with the knowledge, tools, and confidence required to manage family planning in autoimmune neurological diseases with multidisciplinary evidence driven approach.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Acquire knowledge regarding the immunology of pregnancy in treated and untreated women with MS and autoimmune neurological diseases
- Define clinical, radiological and emerging molecular indicators for MS disease activity monitoring during pregnancy and postpartum
- Optimize preconception counseling and pregnancy and post-partum management in women with NMOSD, MOGAD, autoimmune encephalitis and MG
- Promote the multidisciplinary, structured 'MS Pregnancy Unit' model across centers

TARGET AUDIENCE

This educational activity is designed for neurologists, gynecologists, nurses, obstetricians, pediatricians, infectivologists, biologists, with special interest or focus in MS and autoimmune neurological diseases.

SCIENTIFIC ORGANISERS

Girolama A. Marfia and Doriana Landi

Department of Systems Medicine
UOSD Multiple Sclerosis
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Rome, Italy

ACCREDITATION

The programme will be submitted for CME accreditation to the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®).

The programme has been also accredited for in-person participants by the Italian Ministry of Health by the CME provider FOR.MED. srl (Id. 4695) as follows:

Event number: 480974 - CME Credits: 15

REGISTRATION

Pre-register now to be among the first to receive **programme updates, early access to registration**, and **key information** as the 2026 edition takes shape.

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

Med-Ex Learning
viale Gorizia 52, Rome
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Med-Ex Learning
Education & Events

VENUE

Borgo Della Mistica
Largo M. Bellisario, 300
Rome

FACULTY

Carlo Alviggi, Gynaecologist, Italy

Francesca Bovis, Statistician, Italy

Diego Centonze, Neurologist, Italy

Aide Esu, Sociologist, Italy

Caterina Exacoustos, Gynaecologist, Italy

Kerstin Hellwig, Neurologist, Germany

Sarah Hoffmann, Neurologist, Germany

Marco Iannetta, Infectious Disease Specialist, Italy

Raffaele Iorio, Neurologist, Italy

Vilija Jokubaitis, Neurologist, Australia

Doriana Landi, Neurologist, Italy

Girolama Alessandra Marfia, Neurologist, Italy

Sara Mariotto, Neurologist, Italy

Claudia Massarotti, Gynaecologist, Italy

Celia Oreja-Guevara, Neurologist, Spain

Raffaele Palladino, Public Health Specialist, Italy

Paolo Palma, Pediatrician, Italy

Ilaria Pisani, Gynaecologist, Italy

Emilo Portaccio, Neurologist, Italy

Marco Salvetti, Neurologist, Italy

Martina Severa, Biologist, Italy

Martina Siracusano, Child Neuropsychiatrist, Italy

Carla Tortorella, Neurologist, Italy

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

- 14.00 **Welcome and Introduction**
D. Landi, Italy - G.A. Marfia, Italy
- 14.15 **Institutional Welcome**
D. Centonze, Italy
- 14.25 **Lectio Magistralis: 'The female brain: the brain-ovary axis'**
Speaker to be announced

Session 1 **Female hormone dynamics and neuroimmunology in MS and antibody mediated disorders**
Chairs: D. Centonze, Italy - D. Landi, Italy

- 15.00 **The impact of physiological hormonal dynamics across the female lifespan on MS and antibody mediated neurological diseases: from puberty to menopause**
Speaker to be announced
- 15.20 **Hormone-driven immune modulation throughout the female reproductive journey in MS and Antibody mediated autoimmune neurological conditions**
M. Severa, Italy
- 15.40 **Beyond the reproductive system: the interplay between gynecological conditions and neuroinflammation (i.e. endometriosis, ovarian cancer)**
K. Exacoustous, Italy
- 16.00 Discussion
- 16.20 *Coffee Break*

Session 2 **Reproductive challenges in MS and antibody-mediated disorders**
Chairs: C. Alviggi, Italy - G.A. Marfia, Italy

- 16.40 **Fertility issues Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) in women and men with MS and antibodies - mediated diseases**
C. Massarotti, Italy
- 17.00 **The burden of sexual Dysfunction in MS and antibody-mediated disorders: Innovative strategies and insights from AI and assistive Technologies**
Speaker to be announced

- 17.20 **The risk of MS intergenerational transmission: fear or facts?**
M. Salvetti, Italy
- 17.40 **Motherhood in multiple sclerosis: The social stigma, symbolic dimension and couple dynamics**
A. Esu, Italy
- 18.00 Discussion
- 18.20 **Clinical Case Workshop**
Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - Chair to be announced
- 19.00 *End of Day 1*

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Session 3 Epidemiology of pregnancy and Maternal Outcomes in MS

Chairs: G.A. Marfia, Italy - R. Palladino, Italy

- 09.00 **The evolution of clinical and radiological outcomes during and after pregnancy in MS**
K. Hellwig, Germany
- 09.20 **Emerging biomarkers to monitor disease activity across pregnancy and postpartum in MS**
Speaker to be announced
- 09.40 **Pregnancy Registries and Pharmacovigilance in MS: Opportunities and Limitations**
V. Jokoubaitis, Australia
- 10.00 **Pregnancy in MS as a Statistical Model: complexity, limitations and novel approaches**
F. Bovis, Italy
- 10.20 Discussion
- 10.40 *Coffee break*

Session 4 Family planning in MS: a practice-based approach to counselling

Chairs: K. Hellwig, Germany - D. Landi, Italy

- 11.00 **Optimizing DMTs in family planning: current guidelines in MS**
G.A. Marfia, Italy
- 11.20 **Clinical management of women with MS undergoing ART**
D. Landi, Italy
- 11.40 Discussion
- 12.00 **Clinical Case Workshop**
Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - Chair to be announced
- 13.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 **Maternal-Infant vaccination and infectious disease management in pregnancy-seeking and pregnant women with MS**
M. Iannetta, Italy
- 14.20 **Obstetric management and complications in MS and antibody-mediated neurological disorders**
I. Pisani, Italy
- 14.40 **Breastfeeding in MS: Implications for Mother and Child**
E. Portaccio, Italy
- 15.00 **Perinatal inflammation and mood Vulnerability in MS: neuroimmune pathways from mother to offspring**
Speaker to be announced
- 15.20 **Long-Term Neurodevelopmental outcomes in Children Born to Mothers with MS**
M. Siracusano, Italy
- 15.40 Discussion
- 16.00 **Clinical Case Workshop**
Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - Chair to be announced
- 17.45 *End of Day 2*

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Session 5 Pregnancy in Antibody-Mediated neurological diseases

Chairs: R. Iorio, Italy - C. Tortorella, Italy

- 09.00 **Materno-fetal antibody transfer dynamics during pregnancy: implications for neonatal diseases and infection protections**
P. Palma, Italy
- 09.20 **Maternal and Fetal Outcomes in women with NMOsd and MOGAD**
S. Mariotto, Italy
- 09.40 **Maternal and Fetal Outcomes in Women with Myasthenia Gravis (MG)**
S. Hoffman, Germany
- 10.00 **Maternal and Fetal Outcomes in Women with other antibody mediated neurological disorders**
Speaker to be announced
- 10.20 Discussion
- 10.40 **Clinical Case Workshop**
Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - Chair to be announced
- 11.40 *Coffee Break*

Session 6 Management Models

Chair: G. Marfia, Italy

- 12.00 **Round Table: The Maternity Care Unit in autoimmune neurological disorders: state of the art in Europe and initiatives to improve the model**
K. Hellwig, Germany
S. Hoffmann, Germany
D. Landi, Italy
C. Oreja-Guevara, Spain
- 13.00 **Conclusions**
- 13.30 *Closing Lunch*

FOLLOW UP ONLINE MODULES

Two different learning appointments, dedicated only to the Masterclass attendees.

Each workshop will focus on specific topics.

During the sessions participants will have the opportunity to practice, acquire knowledge and competences by sharing their clinical cases and discussing their approach with experts.

Dates will be confirmed at a further stage.

Online Module n. 1

- Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - G. Marfia, Italy

Online Module n. 2

- Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - G. Marfia, Italy

Diplomas will be delivered to attendees at the end of the educational Pathway.



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