



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

17-19 June 2026

Rome, Italy

Scientific 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 Masterclass is 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
Tor Vergata University
Rome, Italy

ACCREDITATION

The 2026 Masterclass on Pregnancy in MS and antibody mediated neurological diseases has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 14.5 European CME credits (ECMEC®s).

Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

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

ENDORSEMENTS

This educational programme is endorsed by:



SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

Med-Ex Learning

viale Gorizia 52, Rome
info@medexlearning.com



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VENUE

Borgo Della Mistica

Largo M. Bellisario, 300
Rome

FACULTY

Carlo Alviggi, Gynaecologist, Italy
Georgina Arrambide, Neurologist, Spain
Francesca Bovis, Statistician, Italy
Diego Centonze, Neurologist, Italy
Massimiliano Di Filippo, Neurologist, Italy
Aide Esu, Sociologist, Italy
Caterina Exacoustos, Gynaecologist, Italy
Kerstin Hellwig, Neurologist, Germany
Sarah Hoffmann, Neurologist, Germany
Marco Iannetta, Infectious Disease Specialist, Italy
Emmanuele A. Jannini, Endocrinologist, Italy
Vilija Jokubaitis, Neurologist, Australia
Doriana Landi, Neurologist, Italy
Girolama Alessandra Marfia, Neurologist, Italy
Sara Mariotto, Neurologist, Italy
Claudia Massarotti, Gynaecologist, Italy
Giulia Menculini, Psychiatrist, Italy
Celia Oreja-Guevara, Neurologist, Spain
Raffaele Palladino, Public Health Specialist, Italy
Paolo Palma, Pediatrician, Italy
Ilaria Pisani, Gynaecologist, Italy
Emilio Portaccio, Neurologist, Italy
Marco Salvetti, Neurologist, Italy
Martina Severa, Biologist, Italy
Menno Schoonheim, Neurologist, The Netherlands
Martina Siracusano, Child Neuropsychiatrist, Italy
Carla Tortorella, Neurologist, Italy
Maria Celica Ysraelit, Neurologist, Argentina

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'**
M. Schoonheim, The Netherlands (from remote)

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**
M.C. Ysraaelit, Argentina (from remote)
- 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. Exacoustos, 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 **Motherhood in multiple sclerosis: The social stigma, symbolic dimension and couple dynamics**
A. Esu, Italy
- 17.00 **The burden of sexual Dysfunction in MS and antibody-mediated disorders: Innovative strategies and insights from AI and assistive Technologies**
E.A. Jannini, Italy

- 17.20 **The risk of MS intergenerational transmission: fear or facts?**
M. Salvetti, Italy
- 17.40 **Fertility issues Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) in women and men with MS and antibodies - mediated diseases**
C. Massarotti, Italy (from remote)
- 18.00 Discussion
- 18.20 **Clinical Case Workshop: Integrating MS, Fertility and Social Vulnerability**
Chairs: C. Alviggi, Italy - D. Landi, Italy
- 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**
M. Di Filippo, Italy (from remote)
- 09.40 **Pregnancy Registries and Pharmacovigilance in MS: Opportunities and Limitations**
V. Jokubaitis, 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 **Maternal-Infant vaccination and infectious disease management in pregnancy-seeking and pregnant women with MS**
M. Iannetta, Italy
- 11.40 **Clinical management of women with MS undergoing ART**
D. Landi, Italy
- 12.00 Discussion
- 12.20 **Clinical Case Workshop: Age- and Safety-Specific Considerations in Family Planning for Women with MS**
Chairs: K. Hellwig, Germany - D. Landi, Italy
- 13.20 *Lunch*

Chairs: G.A. Marfia, Italy - I. Pisani Italy
- 14.20 **Obstetric management and complications in MS and antibody-mediated neurological disorders**
I. Pisani, Italy
- 14.40 **Perinatal inflammation and mood Vulnerability in MS: neuroimmune pathways from mother to offspring**
G. Menculini, Italy
- 15.00 **Breastfeeding in MS: Implications for Mother and Child**
E. Portaccio, Italy
- 15.20 **Long-Term Neurodevelopmental outcomes in Children Born to Mothers with MS**
M. Siracusano, Italy
- 15.40 Discussion
- 16.00 *Coffee Break*
- 16.20 **Clinical Case Workshop: Navigating Postpartum Complexity in MS—From Breastfeeding to Mood Disorders and Hidden Symptoms**
Chairs: D. Landi, Italy - E. Portaccio, Italy
- 17.20 *End of Day 2*

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Session 5 Pregnancy in Antibody-Mediated neurological diseases

Chairs: D. Landi, 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 NMOs**
G. Arrambide, Spain
- 09.40 **Maternal and Fetal Outcomes in Women with MOGAD and other antibody mediated neurological disorders**
S. Mariotto, Italy
- 10.00 **Maternal and Fetal Outcomes in Women with Myasthenia Gravis (MG)**
S. Hoffman, Germany (from remote)
- 10.20 Discussion
- 10.40 **Clinical Case Workshop: Pregnancy management in the context of systemic and neurological polyautoimmunity**
Chairs: D. Landi, Italy – S. Mariotto, Italy
- 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 and initiatives to improve the model**
- G. Arrambide, Spain
K. Hellwig, Germany
S. Hoffmann, Germany (from remote)
V. Jokubaitis, Australia
D. Landi, Italy
S. Mariotto, Italy
E. Melo, Brazil
C. Oreja-Guevara, Spain
- 13.00 Conclusions
- 13.10 *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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