

Breaking Barriers in Antibody-Mediated Neurological Diseases: From Mechanisms to Treatment

20-21 November 2026
Rome, Italy

Preliminary Programme

An educational programme by



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Aim of the Workshop

Myasthenia gravis (MG) is a prototypical neurological autoimmune disorder affecting the neuromuscular junction. Its hallmark clinical feature is fluctuating muscle weakness caused by pathogenic antibodies targeting the nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor or the Muscle-specific kinase expressed on the post-synaptic membrane.

MG has long served as a model for autoimmune neurological diseases, offering critical insights into the antibody-mediated pathogenic mechanisms and guiding advances in immunotherapy.

In recent years, parallel advances have occurred in Autoimmune Encephalitis (AE), Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders (NMOSD), and MOG Antibody-Associated Disease (MOGAD). These conditions, like MG, exemplify how pathogenic autoantibodies against neuronal or glial targets drive highly specific clinical syndromes. The development of novel diagnostic tools and innovative treatment approaches have brought opportunities and challenges. This International Workshop will provide a multidisciplinary platform to give an update on the diagnosis and treatment antibody-mediated neurological diseases, highlighting both shared mechanisms and disease-specific features. The landscape for the diagnosis and treatment of antibody-mediated neurological diseases is characterized by both progress and challenges. Notably, new assays for antibody testing have become available, necessitating the comparison of their relative specificity and sensitivity, and the standardization of these tests to improve diagnostic accuracy. Furthermore, several new therapeutic agents are now available, enhancing patient outcomes but also posing a challenge in selecting the most appropriate treatment. As the treatment landscape rapidly evolves, it underscores the critical importance of continuous education to ensure healthcare professionals stay informed about the latest and most effective methods.

Learning Objectives

- A thorough understanding of the current landscape of MG, AE, NMOSD and MOGAD including the latest research, unmet needs, and emerging treatment strategies.
- Enhanced skills in addressing complex diagnostic challenges and applying advanced therapeutic approaches.
- Expanded professional networks that pave the way for future interdisciplinary collaborations and research projects.
- A forward-looking perspective that integrates novel biomarkers, personalized medicine and patient-centered outcomes.

Target Audience

The workshop has been designed to appeal to a wide range of professionals involved in the research and treatment of MG, AE, NMOSD, MOGAD including:

- Neurologists,
- Resident in Neurology,
- Thoracic Surgeons,
- Intensivists,
- General Practitioners,
- Nurses,
- Pharmacists,
- Medical Researchers,
- and other Healthcare Professionals with a special interest or focus on the diseases.

Scientific Organizer

Raffaele Iorio

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Accreditation

The programme will be submitted for CME accreditation to the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®), and the Italian Ministry of Health (MoH).

Scientific Secretariat

Med-Ex Learning
Rome, Italy
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Registration

Registration is free of charge but limited places are available.

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.

Call for Abstracts

We invite submissions for Abstracts that address topics and issues about antibody-mediated neurological diseases.

We encourage you to **submit your work here** by September 30th, 2026.

A limited number of works will be selected and will be presented during the Workshop as Posters or Oral Presentations

Venue

Nazionale Spazio Eventi
Via Palermo, 10 Rome

Scientific Agenda

Day 1 - 20 November 2026

Navigating the treatment landscape of Myasthenia Gravis

14:00 **Opening Remarks**
Raffaele Iorio (Italy)

Session 1 Standard Therapies

Chairs: A. Bisecco (Italy), A. Evoli (Italy)

14:10 **The debate: Corticosteroids in Myasthenia Gravis: Still the Backbone of Therapy or Fading Role?**

- **Corticosteroids Remain the Cornerstone of MG Treatment**
Nils Erik Gilhus (Norway)
- **The End of the Steroid Era in MG**
Speaker to be announced

15:00 **Thymectomy in Myasthenia Gravis: Indications and Emerging Evidence from Clinical and Pathological Studies**
Speaker to be announced

15:25 **The Role of Conventional Immunosuppressants in MG Management in the era of innovative therapies**
Speaker to be announced

15:50 **Coffee Break**

Session 2: Innovative therapies

Chairs: L. Fionda (Italy), M. Maestri (Italy)

16:10 **Upstream or Downstream? An Overview of Emerging Biologics Targeting the MG Pathological Cascade**
Pushpa Narayanaswami (USA)

16:35 **B-Cell Depletion in Myasthenia Gravis: Current Role and Future Perspectives**
Miriam L. Fichtner (Germany)

17:00 **Complement Inhibitors: Emerging Concepts to Guide Personalized Therapy**
Tobias Ruck (Germany)

17:25 **FcRn Antagonists: Practical Clues for Optimizing Cyclic and Continuous**
Carlo Antozzi (Italy)

17:50 **Q&A**

End of Day 1

Day 2 - 21 November 2026

From mechanisms to treatment

Session 3: Breaking Tolerance: The Roots of Autoimmunity

Chairs: Maria Pia Giannocco (Italy), J. Morroni (Italy)

09:00 **The role of Central tolerance in autoimmune neurological diseases**
Bergithe Oftedal (Norway)

09:25 **Helping the B cells: the role of T cells in neurological autoimmunity**
Carina Saggau (Germany)

09:50 **B cells in antibody-mediated neurological disorders**
Sarosh Irani (USA)

10:10 **IgG4-mediated autoimmune neurological disorders**
Inga Koneczny (Austria)

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 **The debate: Without recombinant human monoclonal antibodies, we cannot definitely prove pathogenicity in antibody-mediated neurological disorders**

Chairs: Matteo Gastaldi (Italy), Luigi Zuliani (Italy)

Yes: "Recombinant human mAbs are the tool of choice to prove antibody pathogenicity"

Jacob Kreye (Germany)

No: "Studies with Polyclonal IgG better reflects the true complexity of the autoimmune response"

Speaker to be announced

Session 4: Autoimmune encephalitis: improving diagnosis and treatment strategies

Chairs: Silvia Casagrande (Italy), Alberto Vogrig (Italy)

- 11:30 **Neuropathology of Autoimmune Encephalitis**
Romana Hofberger (Austria)
- 11:55 **Autoimmune Encephalitis: Key Steps for Timely Diagnosis and Management**
Jerome Honnorat (France)
- 12:20 **Traditional and advanced Neuroimaging of Autoimmune encephalitis**
Carsten Finke (Germany)

12:45 *Lunch and Poster Session*

Session 5: Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders and MOGAD: improving diagnosis and treatment strategies

Chairs: Sara Mariotto (Italy), Elia Sechi (Italy)

- 13:30 **Neuropathology of MOGAD and AQP4 autoimmunity**
Gabriele De Luca (UK)
- 13:55 **Traditional and advanced Neuroimaging of AQP4 and MOG autoimmunity**
Speaker to be announced
- 14:20 **Treatment strategies for NMOSD**
Paul Friedmann (Germany)
- 15:00 **Closing Remarks**
Raffaele Iorio (Italy)

End of The Workshop



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