

2026 Joint MS Academia

20 October 2026
Toronto, Canada

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

An educational programme by



European
Charcot
Foundation



Med-Ex Learning
Education & Events



Aim of the Course

The 2026 Joint MS Academia course is an annual event aimed at providing an update on the main novelties of the year in the field of MS. The 2026 edition will particularly focus on new evidence on immunopathogenetic mechanisms, imaging, fluid biomarkers and new therapeutic approaches in relation to the MS continuum. The 'controversies' session will cover the main 'hot topics' that are currently debated, including MS prodromes, progression independent from relapses (PIRA) as a new clinical outcome, the impact of artificial intelligence and machine learning on the improvement of MS detection and prediction, and new epidemiological data and treatment algorithm about late onset MS (LOMS). Since 2020, Med-Ex Learning has been providing this course in collaboration with the European Charcot Foundation, and we plan to continue this tradition in 2026 and in the future.



Target Audience

This Workshop is designed for neurologists and other healthcare professionals with specific interest in Multiple Sclerosis.



Learning Objectives

- Describe the role of central chronic inflammation in the progressive phase of MS and the mechanism of action of new drugs.
- Address new diagnostic and treatment challenges in special populations and conditions (radiological isolated syndrome, pregnancy, elderly...).
- Recognize how to classify disease courses and estimate prognosis in relation to new fluid and digital biomarkers of disease progression.

Session 1 Objectives

- Describe the biological mechanisms underlying the multiple sclerosis continuum and their implications for disease progression.
- Evaluate the role of emerging biomarkers in improving diagnosis, prognosis, and patient stratification.
- Apply current evidence to optimize therapeutic strategies across different disease stages and special patient populations.

Session 2 Objectives

- Discuss current controversies regarding MS progression, PIRA, prodromal phases, and disease classification.
- Assess the role of advanced imaging and artificial intelligence in predicting disease progression and disability.
- Integrate evolving diagnostic criteria and treatment de-escalation strategies into clinical decision-making.

Scientific Organisers

Hans Peter Hartung

Professor of Neurology
Department of Neurology
Heinrich-Heine University
and
Department of Conservative Medicine
Dusseldorf University Hospital
Co-President of the European Charcot
Foundation
Dusseldorf, Germany

Xavier Montalban

Professor of Neurology
Neurology Department
Multiple Sclerosis Centre of Catalonia
(Cemcat)
and
Vall d'Hebron Barcelona Hospital Campus
Co-President of the European Charcot
Foundation
Barcelona, Spain

Accreditation

This educational programme has been submitted to the Canadian Royal College of Physicians for CME accreditation.

Endorsements

This educational programme is endorsed by

MENACTrims
Middle East North Africa Committee for
Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis

Magnims 
Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Multiple Sclerosis

Scientific Secretariat

Med-Ex Learning

Rome, Italy
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Registration

Registration for in-person attendance 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. Contact us for any info.

Venue

Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown
249 Queens Quay W, Toronto, Canada



Preliminary Programme

13.30* Welcome & Opening
H.P. Hartung, Germany

Session 1: Relapsing remitting and progressive MS - One or Two Diseases?
Chair: H.P. Hartung, Germany

13.45 L1 - New evidence on mechanistic aspects of neuroinflammation
and neurodegeneration
G. De Luca, UK

14.05 L2 - Body fluid biomarkers conceptual and practical
J. Kuhle, Switzerland

14.25 L3 - Late onset MS: a new clinical entity?
M. Tintorè, Spain

14.45 L4 - Pregnancy management in MS: what's new?
M. Houtchens, USA

15.05 L5 - Optimization of treatments in real life settings
J. Oh, Canada

15.25 L6 - From neuroimmunology to future treatment targets
A. Bar Or, USA

15.45 Q&A**

15.55 *Coffee break*

Session 2: Controversies in MS

Chair: H.P. Hartung, Germany

- 16.10 L7 - MS prodromes: sensitivity or specificity?
R. Palladino, Italy
- 16.30 L8 - Imaging biomarkers: have we found the right ones yet?
D. Ontaneda, USA
- 16.50 L9 - PIRA: inflammation or neurodegeneration?
C. Tur, Spain
- 17.10 L10 - Predicting disability: what's the role of artificial intelligence?
C. Granziera, Switzerland
- 17.30 L11 - Treatment de-escalation: who, when, why?
H.P. Hartung, Germany
- 17.50 L12 - New Diagnostic criteria and revision of the classification of courses
X. Montalban, Spain
- 18.10 Q&A**
- 18.30 Wrap up
- 18.40 *End of the day*

* local time

** Questions by the audience can be answered after each talk and during the Q&A slots

This independent educational program is not included in the MSToronto2026 accredited program

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