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

20-21 November 2026
Rome, Italy

Preliminary Programme

An educational programme by
Med-Ex Learning
Education & Events

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
Department of Neuroscience
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Rome, Italy

Endorsements

This programme is endorsed by

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA NEUROIMMUNOLOGIA

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

Sin SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI NEUROLOGIA

THE Sumaira FOUNDATION

Accreditation

The programme has been 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
info@medexlearning.com

Med-Ex Learning
Education & Events

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

The best poster and oral presenation will be awarded with a prize by the Sumaira Foundation.

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**
R. 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**
  N.E. Gilhus, Norway
- **The End of the Steroid Era in MG**
  H. Wiendl,Germany

15:00 **Therapeutic thymectomy**
A. Evoli, Italy

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**
P. Narayanaswami, USA

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

17:00 **Complement Inhibitors: Emerging Concepts to Guide Personalized Therapy**
T. Ruck, Germany

17:25 **FcRn Antagonists: Practical Clues for Optimizing Cyclic and Continuous**
C. Antozzi, Italy

17:50 **Q&A**

18:10 ***End of Day 1***

Day 2 – 21 November 2026
From mechanisms to treatment

Session 3: Breaking Tolerance: The Roots of Autoimmunity
Chairs: M.P. Giannoccaro, Italy - J. Morroni, Italy

09:15 **The role of Central tolerance in autoimmune neurological diseases**
B. Oftedal, Norway

09:40 **Helping the B cells: the role of T cells in neurological autoimmunity**
C. Saggau, Germany

10:05 **B cells in antibody-mediated neurological disorders**
S. Irani, USA

10:30 **IgG4-mediated autoimmune neurological disorders**
I. Koneczny, Austria

10:55 Coffee break

11:15 **The debate: Without recombinant human monoclonal antibodies, we cannot definitely prove pathogenicity in antibody-mediated neurological disorders**
Chairs: M. Gastaldi, Italy - L. Zuliani, Italy

Yes: "Recombinant human mAbs are the tool of choice to prove antibody pathogenicity"
J. Kreye, Germany

No: "Studies with Polyclonal IgG better reflects the true complexity of the autoimmune response"
M. Wilson, USA

Session 4: Autoimmune encephalitis: improving diagnosis and treatment strategies
Chairs: S. Casagrande, Italy - A. Vogrig, Italy

12:05 **Neuropathology of Autoimmune Encephalitis**
J. Bauer, Austria

12:30 **Autoimmune Encephalitis: Key Steps for Timely Diagnosis and Management**
J. Honnorat, France

12:55 **Traditional and advanced Neuroimaging of Autoimmune encephalitis**
C. Finke, Germany

13:15 ***Lunch and Poster Session***

Session 5: Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders and MOGAD: improving diagnosis and treatment strategies
Chairs: S. Mariotto, Italy, E. Sechi, Italy

14:00 **Neuropathology of MOGAD and AQP4 autoimmunity**
G. De Luca, UK

14:25 **Traditional and advanced Neuroimaging of AQP4 and MOG autoimmunity**
E. Flanagan, USA (from remote)

14:50 **Treatment strategies for NMOSD**
F. Paul, Germany

15:15 **Closing Remarks**
R. Iorio, Italy

15:20 ***End of The Workshop***

Med-Ex Learning
Education & Events