15th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders

AGENDA

May 13 – 15, 2025
Postillion Convention Center
The Hague, The Netherlands

The MGFA International Conference is curated as a three-day journey to the future of MG. Each day features a renowned plenary keynote speaker and a variety of sessions, talks, panels, roundtable discussions, and interactive debates.

The first day will encompass a nod to the "past," with a fresh lens on the historical knowledge and progress that has been made in MG treatment and care; an interactive panel with several patients; and a deep dive into special populations within the MG community.

This leads into our second day, an exploration of the current landscape and a direct confrontation of its shortcomings through lively debates, a full session on congenital myasthenic syndromes, and parallel sessions to dive deeply into basic and clinical topics.

The event culminates with a bold invitation to envision and take aim toward a future "World Without MG" through instigative debates, lively discussion, and presentations of the most promising work from the premier thought and change leaders around the globe.

More information about the conference, including registration, is available at myasthenia.org/internationalconference.

CONFERENCE DAY 1
Tuesday, May 13
8:00 - 17:00

SESSION 1 (8:00 - 10:10)
Overview of Autoimmunity

Keynote: An overview of autoimmunity
- Sonia Berrih-Aknin, INSERM/Sorbonne University; France

Microbiota and the antibody/microbiota interface
- Delphine Sterlin, Sorbonne University; France

B cells orchestrate tolerance to the neuromyelitis optica autoantigen AQP44
- Thomas Korn, Technical University of Munich School of Medicine and Health, Munich; Germany

Differences in IgG autoantibody Fab glycosylation across autoimmune diseases
- Theo Rispens, Sanquin; The Netherlands

SESSION 2 (10:45-12:15)
The Social Impact of MG with Guest Patient Panel

The social impacts of MG
- Dong Dong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Centre for Bioethics; Hong Kong

Patient panel
- Facilitated by Dong Dong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong Centre for Bioethics; Hong Kong and Carolina Barnett-Tapia, University Health Network - Toronto General Hospital; Canada

ON-SITE LUNCH (12:15-13:30)

SESSION 3 (13:30-15:00)
Etiology of MG

Identification of genetic risk loci and prioritization of genes and pathways for myasthenia gravis: a genome-wide association study
- Bryan Traynor, Department of Neurology, Johns Hopkins University; USA

Myasthenia gravis-specific aberrant neuromuscular gene expression by medullary thymic epithelial cells in thymoma
- Yoshiaki Yasumizu, Yale University School of Medicine; USA

IL17/Th17/thymoma
- Gurher Saruhan-Direskeneli, Istanbul University; Turkey

Subclinical MG in thymomas
- Florit Marcusse, Maastricht University Medical Center (MUMC); The Netherlands

SESSION 4 (15:30-17:00)
Special Populations

Ocular MG
- Jeanine Heckmann, University of Cape Town; South Africa

Women and pregnancy-related issues in MG
- Amelia Evoli, The University of Cattolica del Sacro Cuore; Italy

Neonatal and juvenile MG
- Sithara Ramdas, Oxford Children's Hospital; England

General overview of LEMS
- Jan Verschuuren, Leiden University Medical Center; The Netherlands

EVENING EVENT
Poster Session

CONFERENCE DAY 2
Wednesday, May 14 (8:00- 17:00)

SESSION 5 (8:00-10:10)
Controversies in MG - "Novel Therapeutics vs the Real World"

Keynote: Interactive debates confronting current controversies in the MG space
- James "Chip" Howard, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; USA

SESSION 6 (10:45-12:15)
Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes (CMS)

Genetic analysis of CMS
- Kinji Ohno, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine; Japan

Postsynaptic/Dok7 CMS

- David Beeson, University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Clinical Neuroscience; United Kingdom

Presynpatic CMS
- Ricardo A. Maselli, University of California Davis; USA

Agrin/LRP4/MuSK CMS
- Stéphanie Bauché, Sorbonne University; France

Targeted therapies of CMS
- Hanns Lochmuller, University of Ottawa; Canada

Moderated Q&A
- Margherita Milone, Mayo Clinic; USA

ON-SITE LUNCH (12:15-13:30)

SESSION 7 (13:30- 15:00)
Parallel Tracks

SESSION 7a
MG Monitoring & Aes

International Consensus Guidance management update
- Pushpa Naryanaswami, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; USA

Adverse event monitoring and management
- Michael Hehir, The University of Vermont Medical Center; USA

Guidelines for managing steroidal therapy complications
- Charles Kassardjian, University of Toronto; Canada

Managing exacerbations and crisis, and the ole of novel treatments
- Heinz Wiendl, University of Freiburg; Germany

Patient preferences and shared decision making
- Carolina Barnett-Tapia, University Health Network; Canada

SESSION 7b
Antibodies (Basic Science Perspective)

Mechanisms underlying MG immunopathology - MuSK RTX
- Miriam Fichtner, Charité Universitätsmedizin; Germany

Mechanisms of AChR autoantibody effector functions
- Kevin O'Connor, Yale University School of Medicine; USA

Novel mechanisms associated with MuSK autoantibody-mediated pathology
- Gianvito Masi, Yale University School of Medicine; USA

Structure function studies of human autoantibodies targeting NMJ receptors
- Colleen Noviello, University of California, San Diego; USA

SESSION 8 (15:30-17:00)
Parallel Tracks

SESSION 8a
Non-Pharmacologic Interventions

Balancing MG with exercise and sleep: DIG-MG trial
- Anna Punga, Uppsala University; Sweden

Mindfulness for MG
- Sui Wong, King's College; United Kingdom

Mental fatigue and associated factors
- Sarah Hoffmann,Charité Universitätsmedizin; Germany

Comprehensive care in MG
- Miriam Freimer, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; USA

SESSION 8b
New Models for MG

What can we learn from large single cell/single nucleus datasets in ageing muscle for neuromuscular disease

NMJ Organoids overview

Thymic epithelial organoids from mice
- Sangho Lim, Hubrecht Institute; The Netherlands

EVENING EVENT
Offsite Dinner

CONFERENCE DAY 3
Thursday, May 15 (8:00- 17:00)

SESSION 9 (8:00-10:10)
The Future of MG: Can We Cure MG?

Keynote
- Stephen Reddell, Syndey Neurology; Australia and Jan Vershuuren, Lieden University Medical Center; The Netherlands

CAR-T CD19 approaches in autoimmunity
- Aiden Haghikia, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover; Germany

CAAR-T anti-AChR
- Aimee Payne, Columbia University Irving Medical Center; USA

B cell-specific mAb-siRNA conjugates

MuSK agonist
- Maartje Huijbers, Leiden University Medical Center; The Netherlands

Complement inhibitors in AChR model: What's new?
- Pilar Martinez, Maastricht University; The Netherlands

SESSION 10 (10:45-12:15)
Platforms

Oral Presentations selected from abstract submissions, including a spotlight for best abstracts, promising trainees, and early-career investigators.

ON-SITE LUNCH (12:15-13:30)

SESSION 11 (13:30- 15:00)
Personalized Care

Objective biomarkers for MG
- Anna Punga, Uppsala University; Sweden

Digital endpoints and AI application to MG
- Henry Kaminski, George Washington University; USA

Home monitoring and apps
- Sophie Lehnerer, Charité, University Medicine Berlin; Germany

Artificial intelligence: video or photo analysis
- Martijn Tannemaat, Leiden University Medical Center; The Netherlands

SESSION 12 (15:30-17:00)
What I Don't Know About MG Roundtable

After compelling discussions of the future we envision, the conference concludes with a direct confrontation of our collective knowledge gaps.

EVENING EVENT
Poster Session