

## 8<sup>th</sup> ECTRIMS FOCUSED WORKSHOP

*The Risk of Infections for MS Disease Modifying Treatments (DMTs)  
14 and 21 April 2021 – to be held digitally*

**WEEK 1 - PARALLEL SESSIONS (LIVE AND RECORDED)  
WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021**

### Instructions for the Chairs and Presenters

Speaker presentations will be pre-recorded and sent to session chairs one week before the Day 1 live Parallel Sessions. During the live sessions, each session's pre-recorded presentations will be delivered and there will be ample time for discussion between all presenters, other discussants and chairs. Chairs will prepare, during the remainder of the week, a summary of the most important take-home messages from their session, to be delivered at the plenary session the following week. There will be 4 sessions in parallel, live during week 1 and all of these live sessions will be recorded to allow all participants to download all sessions on demand.

### Session 1: Current data on infections associated with MS disease-modifying treatments

Chairs: A Boyko (Moscow, RU), MP Amato (Florence, IT)

- 15.00 **Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML) risk, prevention, and management**  
DB Clifford (St Louis, US)  
*PML prevalence, immune mechanisms of JCV surveillance and clearance, risk stratification, biomarkers; PML risk with use of natalizumab, dimethyl fumarate, fingolimod, ocrelizumab, rituximab; Early diagnosis of PML; How to treat PML in MS including Plasma Exchange and steroids, immune checkpoint blockade; other perspectives.*
- 15.15 **Infections associated with S1P modulators**  
M Mehling (Basel, CH)  
*MoA, type of immunity impairment, rate of infections and specific infections reported, with a specific focus on VVZ infection; Relative risks of fingolimod, siponimod, ponesimod, ozanimod; Risk mitigation strategies: what needs to be monitored (lymphocytes count, other assays, possible preventive strategies or treatments)*
- 15.30 **Infections associated with CD52 lymphodepleting therapies**  
K Selmaj (Olsztyn, PL)  
*MoA, type of immunity impairment, rate of infections and specific infections reported, with a specific focus on bacterial infections (TB, listeria) and viral infections (CMV, herpes); Lessons learned from use of alemtuzumab for non-MS indications; Risk mitigation strategies: what needs to be monitored (lymphocytes count, other assays, possible preventive strategies or treatments)*

- 15.45 **Infections associated with other lymphodepleting therapies: cladribine, dimethylfumarate and teriflunomide**  
P Soelberg Sørensen (Copenhagen, DK)  
*MoA, type of immunity impairment, rate of infections and specific infections reported, with a specific focus on bacterial infections (TB) and viral infections (varicella zoster infection, herpes simplex virus); Risk mitigation strategies (what needs to be monitored (lymphocytes count, other assays, possible preventive strategies or treatments)*
- 16.00 **Infections using anti-CD20 therapies**  
F Piehl (Stockholm, SE)  
*MoA, type of immunity impairment, rate of infections and specific infections reported, with a specific focus on HBV reactivation. Lessons learned from previous use of anti-CD20 therapies for other non-MS indications; Is hypogammaglobulinemia frequent with anti-CD20? Could it also be present with other treatments? Does it really increase the risk of infection? Should patients receive IVIg to prevent infections? Rituximab, ocrelizumab and ofatumumab and risk mitigation strategies*
- 16.15 **Infections using new NMO/D treatments: anti-CD 19 (inebilizumab); eculizumab and satralizumab**  
B Weinschenker (Rochester, US)  
*MoA, type of immunity impairment, rate of infections and specific infections reported; Risk mitigation strategies*
- 16.30 **Discussion by chairs, speakers and discussants**  
Discussants: Y Taoufik (Paris, FR), T Derfuss (Basel, CH), A Achiron (Tel Aviv, IL)
- 17.30 **End of Session 1**  
Chairs remind participants about the plenary sessions and how to connect

**Session 2a: Infectious risks in specific populations of MS patients planning to start or already receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory treatments: what should we do?**

Chairs: A Vaknin-Dembinsky (Jerusalem, IL), A Siva (Istanbul, TR)

- 15.00 **Paediatric MS**  
Y Hachon (London, UK)  
*Specific infections reported with studied therapies; Risk mitigation strategies*
- 15.15 **Pregnant women**  
R Dobson (London, UK)  
*Specific infections reported with studied therapies; Risk mitigation strategies*

- 15.30 **The role of comorbidities and advanced age on the risk of infections**  
K Fitzgerald (Baltimore, US)  
*Which comorbidities may increase the risk of infections? Special concerns in senior patients?*

**Session 2b: Populations of MS in high infection burden regions:**  
*Infections and specific infections reported. Risk mitigation strategies*

- 15.45 **Infectious risks in specific populations: Latin America**  
L Negrotto (Buenos Aires, AR)
- 16.00 **Infectious risks in specific populations: India/Asia**  
L Pandit (Mangalore, IN)
- 16.15 **Discussion by chairs, speakers and discussants**  
Discussants: R Gouider (Tunis, TN), E Iacobescu (Stockholm, SE),  
F di Pauli (Vienna, AT)
- 17.15 **End of Session 2**

**Session 3: Complex situations in the management of infectious risks: The COVID pandemic**

Chairs: B Stankoff (Paris, FR) and MP Sormani (Genoa, IT)

- 15.00 **Covid and immunological response**  
D Baker (London, UK)
- 15.15 **Covid and immunological response: focusing on B cells and risk of reinfection**  
H Wiendl (Muenster, DE)
- 15.30 **Covid incidence and severity in MS treated patients (France)**  
C Louapre (Paris, FR)
- 15.45 **Covid incidence and severity in MS treated patients (International)**  
S Simpson-Yap (Melbourne, AU)
- 16.00 **Challenges with Covid vaccines**  
H Abboud (Cleveland, US)
- 16.15 **Covid pandemic and future pandemics?**  
JL Casanova (New York, US)
- 16.30 **Discussion by chairs, speakers and discussants**  
Discussants: M Mycko (Olsztyń, PL), M Trojano (Bari, IT)
- 17.30 **End of Session 3**

#### **Session 4: Prevention strategies: vaccination**

Chairs: M Tintoré (Barcelona, ES) and S Vukusic (Lyon, FR)

- 15.00 **Safety and immunogenicity of vaccines in MS**  
C Lebrun (Nice, FR)
  
- 15.15 **Immunization strategy (before, during, and after immunosuppression)**  
S Otero (Barcelona, ES)
  
- 15.30 **Immunization in special situations: children**  
Y Hachon (London, UK)
  
- 15.45 **Immunization in special situations: women, including pregnancy**  
M Magyari (Copenhagen, DK)
  
- 16.00 **Immunization in special situations: elderly**  
B Hemmer (Munich, DE)
  
- 16.15 **Immunization in special situations: international travel**  
M Farez (Buenos Aires, AR)
  
- 16.30 Discussion by chairs, speakers and discussants  
Discussants: C Papeix (Paris, FR), A Winkelmann (Rostock, DE),  
C Hatz (Basel, CH)
  
- 17.30 **End of Session 4**

**WEEK 2 – PLENARY SESSION (LIVE)**  
**WEDNESDAY, 21 APRIL 2021**

**Plenary session:**

Chairs from Parallel Sessions 1 - 4 will present brief summaries of the highlights and “take home messages” from their sessions. There will be two final presentations with conclusions from an MS expert and from an infectious disease expert that will conclude the Workshop.

**14.45 Welcome**

M Tintoré (Barcelona, ES)

**15.00 Wrap up of Session 1: Current data on infections associated with MS disease-modifying treatments**

Chairs: A Boyko (Moscow, RU), MP Amato (Florence, IT)

**15.30 Wrap up of Session 2: Infectious risks in specific populations of MS patients planning to start or already receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory treatments: what should we do?**

Chairs: A Vaknin-Dembinsky (Jerusalem, IL), A Siva (Istanbul, TR)

**16.00 Wrap up of Session 3: Complex situations in the management of infectious risks: The COVID pandemic**

Chairs: MP Sormani (Genoa, IT), B Stankoff (Paris, FR)

**16.30 Wrap up of Session 4: Prevention strategies: vaccination**

Chairs: M Tintoré (Barcelona, ES) and S Vukusic (Lyon, FR)

**Recommendations for the management of infectious risks in routine MS clinical practice.**

**17.00 Recommendation from an MS expert’s perspective**

L Kappos (Basel, CH)

*What needs to be done before starting treatment and during treatment?*

**17.30 Recommendations from an infectious disease expert’s point of view**

I Ruiz (Barcelona, ES)

*What needs to be done before starting treatment and during treatment; the role of infectious disease specialists and preventive medicine specialists in managing the MS patient*

**18.00 Conclusions**

A Boyko (Moscow, RU) and B Stankoff (Paris, FR)

**18.15 End of Focused Workshop**