



### Letter from the President



The year 2017 is already well underway and planning for this year's Congress, which will be held in Paris on October 25-28th, is proceeding smoothly. As happens every 3 years, this year's Congress is being jointly organised by ECTRIMS and ACTRIMS. The location of the triennial joint meetings alternates between Europe and North America and is identified in the Congress name: this year it is called MSParis2017 (the next triennial meeting will be in Washington DC in 2020).

For Paris, an excellent and diverse Scientific Programme has been finalised and the faculty has been invited. A big thank you to Catherine Lubetski for her leadership in developing what will be a highly informative scientific meeting. The educational aspects of this year's Congress will be underpinned by an extensive programme of teaching courses, and thanks go to Tobias Derfuss, Sandra Vukusic and Suhayl Dhib-Jalbut for coordinating this part of the meeting.

Other "standing" activities will take place during the year. In March, the 5th ECTRIMS annual focused workshop will be held in Rome. The topic this year is "Advancing Trial Design in Progressive MS" and ECTRIMS is pleased to be holding the workshop in association with the International Progressive MS Alliance. The meeting is timely as there is now a major global focus on research, including trials, to tackle progressive MS, an area of major unmet need. We thank Jeremy Chataway, Bob Fox, Maria Pia Sormani, Xavier Montalban and Alan Thompson for shaping the workshop programme. It is intended that a publication will follow based on the workshop proceedings. A publication arising from the

2016 focused workshop, on “Environmental Modifiable Risk Factors in MS” and first-authored by Maria Pia Amato, has been accepted for publication in the Multiple Sclerosis Journal.

In May 2017, the third ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course will be held in Vilnius, in conjunction with the Baltic MS council. This course will follow the first two successful regional teaching courses held last year in conjunction with RUCTRIMS in St Petersburg and MENACTRIMS in Dubai. Thanks to Per Soelberg-Sorensen, Tobias Derfuss and Sandra Vukusic for coordinating the teaching course programme. In June, the 5th ECTRIMS Annual Summer School will take place in Santiago de Compostela where the topic is “Rehabilitation and Symptomatic Treatment in MS”. Special thanks to Maria Pia Amato for developing the programme assisted by Peter Feys and Xavier Montalban.

ECTRIMS has a substantial fellowship programme and this year there has been a good number of applications for the Post-doctoral Exchange and Clinical Training Fellowship schemes. The selection of successful applications from these and other schemes will be made in the coming months. For further information on all ECTRIMS fellowship schemes please see the web link: <http://www.ectrims.eu/ectrims-fellowship-programmes/>.

ECTRIMS looks forward to another busy and productive year and to collaborating with other organisations who share its goals.

Prof. David Miller

## Topics

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## MSParis2017 – 7th Joint ECTRIMS – ACTRIMS Meeting / 25 – 28 October 2017 in Paris, France

Dear colleagues,

Some news about MS Paris 2017, as time is flying .. ! The first part of the scientific program, with the different sessions and invited speakers is almost finalized. It will comprise clinical sessions (MS criteria, management of MS, new trials results and emerging therapies), neuro-imaging sessions, neurobiology and neuro-immunology sessions. Parallel sessions will enable to satisfy clinicians as well as scientists, and will favor cross-fertilization. In each session, there will be, in addition to the two invited communications, 2 to 3 oral presentations selected from abstracts. These platform presentations will be selected depending on their quality and innovation, paying special attention to young investigators. For the abstracts selected for poster presentation, there will be sufficient time during the several poster sessions to discuss your work with your colleagues, and enter the competition for the poster prizes! So do not miss the abstract deadline on May 31!!!

Concerning the social program, we are very happy to inform you that the “networking event” will take place on Thursday 26, at the Musée D’Orsay. Located on the bank of the Seine, this museum, initially a nineteenth century railway station, holds mainly French art from 1848 to 1914, and offers the largest collection of impressionist and post-Impressionist masterpieces in the world. This will be a unique experience...

We hope that you will enjoy as much the high level scientific program and the social interactions, and that MS Paris 2017 will favor the development of many collaborative projects.

On behalf of the scientific committee, and of the local organizing committee, we are looking forward to welcoming you in Paris!

Catherine Lubetzki  
Chair Local Organizing Committee

Please visit the [ECTRIMS 2017 website](#) for continuously updated information and the current scientific programme.

#### Some important dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 May 2017

Deadline for reduced registration: 23 August 2017



### **Report of the ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Courses 2016 in St. Petersburg and Dubai**

In 2016 ECTRIMS started the new activity of regional teaching courses to provide easy access for regional groups of neurologists to high quality training in MS clinical care. The first teaching course was held from 19th - 21st of May in St. Petersburg (Russia) in association with RUCTRIMS. The programme included talks about the pathophysiology, imaging of MS patients, modern diagnostic work-up, and the mechanism of action of immunomodulatory drugs. In addition, certain topics were intensified in interactive workshops. The meeting was well attended and gathered 150 neurologists from Russia. The feedback from attendees was excellent and further initiatives in Russia are planned.

The second teaching course took place in Dubai on the 11th of November 2016 in association with MENACTRIMS. Local and international speakers covered different topics in the sessions about “Diagnostic Challenges”, “Pathology, Immunology, and Epidemiology” and “Update on

progressive MS therapy, epidemiology and therapeutic challenges in the Middle East & North Africa region". The programme was completed by three workshops discussing treatment algorithms. Also this meeting proved to be a success with 150 attendees and lively discussions.

The third regional teaching course of ECTRIMS will take place in Vilnius on the 11th- 12th of May 2017. The programme with the title "New aspects of diagnosis, pathology, and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis" was developed in cooperation with the Baltic committee and can be found on the [ECTRIMS webpage](#) soon.

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## ECTRIMS Summer School 2017 / 13 - 15 June in Santiago de Compostela, Spain

The next [ECTRIMS Summer School](#) will take place on June 13 - 15 2017 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The School will provide an update on the framework of rehabilitation and available evidence for the effectiveness of motor and cognitive rehabilitation interventions in MS. Moreover, it will cover epidemiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis and evidence base behind the various pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic approaches to the management of MS symptoms, which in most cases requires multidisciplinary input. **The target audience** is represented by high-potential young researchers and clinical experts from different backgrounds who want to generate and implement best evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation care. **The main learning objectives** are to understand the indications and effect of symptomatic treatment and rehabilitation, to be capable to integrate evidence from multiple disciplines into clinical case management and to propose important research questions and challenges for clinical implementation of holistic symptomatic treatment and rehabilitation. **The teaching format** is based on theoretical presentations delivered by international experts in the field, with ample space for interactive discussion, multidisciplinary group discussion and multi-disciplinary group work on research projects.

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## Reports of ECTRIMS Fellows

### ECTRIMS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP



#### **Fellow**

Carmen Tur

#### **Research Topic**

What is the role of brain structural and functional connectivity in clinically isolated syndrome?

#### **Fellowship Institution**

UCL Institute of Neurology, Department of Neuroinflammation, NMR Unit

**Mentor**

Olga Ciccarelli

**Fellowship Duration**

2 years

Summary as ECTRIMS Postdoctoral Research Exchange Fellow

The aim of my ECTRIMS post-doctoral fellowship project was to understand the role of brain connectivity dysfunction in people with a clinically isolated syndrome (CIS). In my first study, I assessed the longitudinal changes of covariance cortical networks built with cortical thickness data in patients who had suffered a CIS. So, during the first year after the CIS, patients showed a progressive loss of brain connectivity in the absence of cortical atrophy. Interestingly, network disruption was greater among those patients with an early conversion to MS, suggesting these changes were clinically relevant. In my second study, I assessed diffusion-based structural connectivity metrics in patients with a CIS, focusing on the comparison between conventional and multi-shell multi-tissue diffusion algorithms to reconstruct such metrics. These studies have been sent to different congresses and the manuscripts are currently in preparation.

**ECTRIMS MS NURSE TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME****Fellow**

Miguel-Angel Robles-Sanchez

**Research Topic**

A comprehensive approach to meeting the needs and demands of people with multiple sclerosis

**Fellowship Institution**

The National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery Queen Square. University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH)

**Mentor**

Bernadette Porter

**Fellowship Duration**

6 months

Summary as ECTRIMS MS Nurse Training Fellowship Programme Fellow

Additional expertise through practical nursing experience and training in a mentored MS environment in Europe is necessary to enhance care and support of individuals with MS by assessing and solving their needs and demands helping to promote best practices in nursing care throughout Europe.

The role and contribution of the MS Clinical Nurse Specialist has been clearly described in a paper including the application of the philosophy of sharing expertise, the principles of Health Promotion, health education and support in disease modifying treatment.

Also an identification of the MS nurse-led programmes available was performed to evaluate and implement new interventions for the MS Spanish population such as a new decision aid for shared decision making and an Expert Patient Programme.

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## MSIF-ECTRIMS McDonald Fellowship

We are happy to announce that the application is now open for the

### [MSIF-ECTRIMS McDonald Fellowship](#)

The McDonald Fellowship enables young researchers from **emerging countries** to work with the world's leading researchers in MS, with a view to returning to their own countries to establish a programme of MS research that involves the application of newly learned techniques. This is a **two-year fellowship**, with an award of **£30,000 per annum** to the candidate and an additional sum of £2000 awarded to the host institute.

Further information may be found at: <https://www.msif.org/mcdonald>

Deadline for nominations is **30 June 2017**.

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## Meeting Dates

### **ECTRIMS Focused Workshop 2017**

Rome / Italy: 9 – 10 March 2017

### **RIMS Annual Conference**

Barcelona / Spain: 4 – 6 May 2017

### **ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course 2017**

Vilnius / Lithuania: 11 – 12 May 2017

### **ECTRIMS Summer School 2017**

Santiago de Compostela / Spain: 13 – 15 June 2017

### **ECTRIMS 2017**

Paris / France: 25 – 28 October 2017

### **ECTRIMS 2018**

Berlin / Germany: October 2018

We are looking forward to seeing you in Paris!



D. Miller, London/UK, President  
B. Hemmer, Munich/DE, Vice President  
M. P. Amato, Florence/IT, Secretary  
T. Derfuss, Basel/CH, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor  
M. Tintoré, Barcelona/ES  
S. Vikusic, Lyon/FR  
L. Brundin, Stockholm/SE

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