

Letter from the President



Already we are in to the second half of 2018 and as the autumn approaches we are looking forward to the ECTRIMS 2018 Congress, which is being held in Berlin on October 10-12th. With a large number of regular and late breaking news abstracts having been accepted, and an excellent scientific and educational programme and faculty in place, the 2018 meeting promises to continue the pattern of past Congresses in being a uniquely large and valuable event in the field of MS. The programme has several new features and will include, for the first time, four “Meet the Expert” sessions. More details about the Congress can be read elsewhere in this newsletter and on the ECTRIMS website. Thanks for ensuring an excellent Congress go to the Local Organising Committee (chair: Reinhard Hohlfeld), Scientific Programme Committee (chair: Bernhard Hemmer), Teaching Course Committee (co-chairs: Tobias Derfuss and Sandra Vukusic), and also all the abstract reviewers.

While the annual Congress remains its largest commitment, ECTRIMS continues to be active in other ways. ECTRIMS funded travel fellowships to support young investigators to attend the Third Scientific Congress of the International Progressive MS Alliance, which was held in Toronto in May. In June, a successful joint ECTRIMS-European Academy of Neurology (EAN) symposium on “Therapeutic challenges in progressive multiple sclerosis” took place during the 2018 EAN annual congress in Lisbon. Also in June, ECTRIMS held a very successful summer school on optical coherence tomography in MS, in Budapest. Along with the National MS Society USA, ECTRIMS is co-sponsoring a meeting of the

International Advisory Committee on Clinical Trials in MS that will be held in Washington D.C. in September – the topic of the meeting is “International Conference on Data Leveraging in Multiple Sclerosis”.

Plans are now being made for the 2019 ECTRIMS focused workshop and summer school: further details on these events are available elsewhere in this newsletter along with information on an upcoming ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course that is being held jointly with BCTRIMS in November 2018. Also you can find further information on the next (2018-19) ECTRIMS fellowship application cycle as well as reports from two fellows who have recently undertaken ECTRIMS fellowships.

I would like to give special thanks to the members of the ECTRIMS Executive Committee for their considerable and sustained work in supporting and enabling our organisation’s activities.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. I also hope you will feel encouraged to attend the upcoming Congress in Berlin, which will provide comprehensive scientific and educational updates in the field of MS along with great networking opportunities.

David Miller

Topics

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ECTRIMS 2018 – 10 – 12 October 2018 in Berlin, Germany

The ECTRIMS scientific programme committee is introducing a new session format at this year’s congress. Four “**Meet the Expert**”-Sessions will take place on **Thursday, 11 October 2018** and will offer the possibility to delegates to discuss cases and questions with experts.

Two experts will be available for 60 minutes on “**Clinical treatment issues in NMO**”, “**Differential diagnosis**”, “**Treatment**” and “**Pregnancy**”. Interested participants can bring a few slides to this session that will then be discussed to receive expert advice. Please click [here](#) for the detailed scientific programme and further information.

Please [click](#) here to watch the video about the announcement of the ECTRIMS 2018 in Berlin.

Update on ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course 2018 in Curitiba, Brazil

The next ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course 2018, which is being held in Curitiba, Brazil on 2 -3 November 2018 is approaching. Please [click](#) here for the updated programme of the ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course in Curitiba.

Update on ECTRIMS Focused Workshop 2019 in Athens, Greece

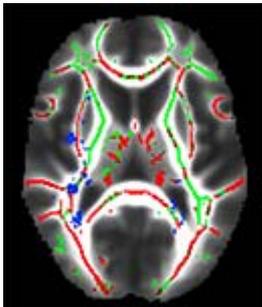
The next ECTRIMS Focused Workshop on “MOG – antibody associated disease” will be held in Athens / Greece on 7 – 8 March 2019. Further programme details will follow soon.

Update on ECTRIMS Summer School 2019 in Dublin, Ireland

The next ECTRIMS Summer School on “Methodology of study design and statistical analysis” will be held in Dublin, Ireland on 18 – 20 June 2019. Further programme details will follow soon.

ECTRIMS Fellowship Application Cycle 2018/2019

The ECTRIMS Fellowship Competition 2019 has started. Take the opportunity and apply for one of the renowned ECTRIMS Fellowship Programmes.

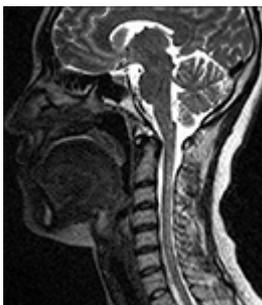


ECTRIMS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Exchange Programme

This fellowship is offered to young postdoctoral neuroscientists to facilitate their conduct of and training in basic, clinical or applied research related to MS in European laboratories or clinics. ECTRIMS will support various fellowships annually, each with duration of 1 or 2 years, with an annual stipend of up to € 55'000. Applicants may come from any country and are expected to identify a European research training environment and mentor prior to application and to devote full-time to research and training during their fellowship period (up to 10% time and effort can be spent on teaching and/or clinical care).

Application Deadline: 1 December 2018

For detailed information, please click [here](#)



ECTRIMS Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Training Fellowship Programme

This fellowship is offered to neurologists and other physicians to provide the opportunity to learn the latest techniques in MS patient management and care and to help foster their careers as MS physicians. It is available for 3, 6 or 12 months and must be performed under the direction of a senior clinical mentor at a

European MS clinic and/or MS research centre. Fellows may come from any location but priority will be given to candidates from developing countries.

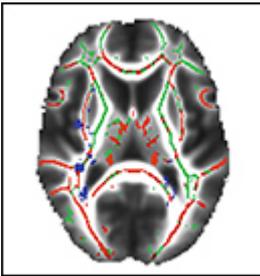
ECTRIMS will award various fellowships annually, with a stipend of € 13'750 for a 3 month programme, € 27'500 for a 6 month programme or

€ 55'000 for a 1 year training programme. The programme is intended to be a full-time MS clinical care training experience. This can include "hands on" clinical care under the guidance of the mentor, correlated course work in the training institutions, and may also include time involved in clinical research under the guidance of the mentor.

Application Deadline: 1 December 2018

For detailed information, please click [here](#)

***** NEW: Two types of nurse training experiences available with flexibility in training duration *****



ECTRIMS Multiple Sclerosis Nurse Training Fellowship Programme

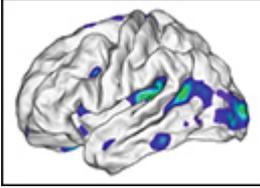
The MS Nurse training fellowship programmes are offered to qualified/licensed nurses from all over the world to provide the opportunity for them to obtain additional expertise through practical MS nursing experience and training in a mentored MS environment in Europe. Our aim is to enhance care and support of individuals with MS by fostering improved clinical care and education and by helping to promote best practices in nursing care for MS.

ECTRIMS will support several fellowships each year **with two types of training experiences**: Comprehensive MS nurse training (for 6 months to one year in duration) and short-term (e.g. two weeks), flexible specialized MS nurse training (flexible in training duration). ECTRIMS will provide a stipend of € 55'000 per year for the training period. Training must be under the direction and mentorship of a senior MS nurse, in association with a senior MS clinician where appropriate, at a European clinical site with significant expertise in MS.

Application Deadline: 1 February 2019

For detailed information, please click [here](#)

To apply online, please click [here](#)



ECTRIMS-MAGNIMS Fellowship in Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Multiple Sclerosis

The European MAGNIMS network (Magnetic Resonance Imaging in MS) and ECTRIMS jointly support research fellowships for young researchers in the application of magnetic resonance studies to MS. ECTRIMS will support two fellowships annually, each with duration of 1 year, with an annual stipend of up to € 55'000.

Application Deadline: 1 February 2019

For detailed information and online application, please click [here](#)

Report of ECTRIMS Fellows

ECTRIMS MS CLINICAL TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



Fellow

Nuria Cerdá Fuertes

Fellowship Institution

University Hospital Basel (Switzerland)

Mentor

Prof. Tobias Derfuss

Fellowship Duration

1 year

Summary as ECTRIMS Clinical Training Fellowship Programme Fellow 2017 – 2018

During my fellowship, I had the great opportunity to work in the multiple sclerosis (MS) outpatient clinic at the University Hospital Basel. This enabled me to gain a thorough experience in clinical care of MS patients.

My main research project was to analyse the relevance of clinical bedside tests (primitive reflexes e.g. palmomental reflex, antisaccade test) for the detection of cognitive impairment (CI) in MS. CI

is frequent in all disease stages and subtypes of MS and has an important impact on daily activities and quality of life. While computerized measurements of antisaccade tasks have been well studied in patients with MS and correlate with CI, the informative value of palmomental reflexes (PMR) in MS patients is unclear. In addition, presence of CI is underestimated and the neurologist's accuracy in predicting CI is rarely better than chance. We aimed to investigate the presence of these signs (using a short clinical antisaccade test (CAT) and elicitation of PMR) and its association with validated neuropsychological tests for the detection of CI in MS patients. To this end, we evaluated 47 MS-patients (followed in the Swiss MS Cohort Study). PMR and CAT were performed in a blinded manner on the same day as the Multiple Sclerosis Inventory Cognition (MUSIC) and Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT). Fatigue was assessed with MUSIC. We calculated, for each patient, a sum score by adding PMR results and the number of errors in CAT. 16 patients (34%) had CI (9 mild, 4 moderate, 3 severe). We found that this sum score was independently associated with MUSIC and SDMT results in MS patients, even after correction for fatigue and EDSS. These findings suggest that CAT and PMR might be useful clinical screening tests for the detection of cognitive impairment in MS patients. I had the opportunity to present these results as a poster at the Congress of the European Academy of Neurology in Lisbon. We are currently increasing our sample size and plan to prepare a manuscript in autumn.

In addition, I have carried out a project on the recurrence of disease activity after fingolimod discontinuation. To this end, we reviewed all the patients who initiated Fingolimod at our MS-center and identified those who discontinued the treatment. In this group we analysed the presence of clinical and/or MRI activity 6 months after discontinuation. This work has been accepted as an oral presentation at the annualECTRIMS meeting in Berlin and I will present the results there.

Finally, I took part in a project at the Medical Image Analysis Center (MIAC) on the central vein sign in paediatric-onset multiple sclerosis. A brief communication has recently been submitted to MSJournal and is being considered for publication.

In conclusion, this year has been a very enriching experience and I would like to thank ECTRIMS and the neurology department at the University Hospital Basel for having given me this excellent opportunity.

ECTRIMS-MAGNIMS FELLOWSHIP IN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING IN MS

Fellow

Marcello Moccia

Research Topic

Improving longitudinal spinal cord atrophy measurements for clinical trials in multiple sclerosis by using the Generalised Boundary Shift Integral (GBSI)

Fellowship Institution

NMR Research Unit, Queen Square MS Centre, Department of Neuroinflammation, UCL Institute of Neurology, Faculty of Brain Sciences, University College London, London, United Kingdom

Mentor

Prof. Olga Ciccarelli, Prof. Frederik Barkhof, Dr Ferran Prados

Fellowship Duration

1 year

Summary as ECTRIMS MAGNIMS Fellowship in Magnetic Resonance Imaging in MS Fellow

2017 – 2018

I have spent my ECTRIMS-MAGNIMS fellowship at the NMR Research Unit of the University College London. In this prestigious unit, thanks to the careful and sensible supervision of Prof. Olga Ciccarelli, Prof. Frederik Barkhof and Dr. Ferran Prados, I have developed a thorough knowledge in multiple sclerosis (MS) and, above all, in measuring spinal cord atrophy with advanced MRI techniques. This has been the most inspiring experience of my clinical research career.

The fellowship research project was carried on in collaboration with the Hospital San Raffaele, Milan, Italy, and the St. Josef Hospital, Bochum, Germany. We focused on improving longitudinal spinal cord atrophy measurements in MS with a registration based technique, the generalised boundary shift integral (GBSI), that has been previously used for brain atrophy. We included a large cohort of MS patients with different disease phenotypes, that was derived from the MAGNIMS spinal cord cohort (obtained from 7 different sites, and collected by Profs. Mara Rocca and Massimo Filippi, Hospital San Raffaele, Milan), and from the CIS and spinal cord cohorts of the NMR Research Unit. Based on our findings, GBSI was able to detect meaningful variations in spinal cord atrophy on a sample 10-20 fold lower than conventional measurements (e.g., CSA), and was more strongly associated with MS-related disability. In the future, the GBSI could be used to monitor disease progression and could become outcome measure in neuroprotective clinical trials, shortening the development time for MS therapies and speeding up the availability of life-changing treatments.

Finally, during this year, I was given the opportunity to attend the ECTRIMS-ECTRIMS Meeting (Paris 2017), and MAGNIMS Plenary Meetings and Workshops (London 2017, Milan 2017 and Amsterdam 2018). These events have represented a unique opportunity to share ideas, attend highly valuable sessions, broaden my knowledge and hence improve the quality of my work. Not least, I had the chance to meet leading international scientists and clinicians in MS and, among them, I would mention Profs Massimo Filippi and Mara Rocca (and their team) with whom I had a continuous and productive interaction to implement spinal cord analyses.

I would like to thank ECTRIMS and my mentors, supervisors and colleagues at the NMR Research Unit for having given me this extraordinary opportunity.

ECTRIMS Society App



We are delighted to announce the release of the ECTRIMS Society App – a 365 days app, which will give you valuable information about the ECTRIMS Society throughout the whole year.

Please be informed, that you will also get access to the yearly congress app by downloading the ECTRIMS Society App in your corresponding app store. The app is called **ECTRIMS**.

The congress app will then help you to navigate through the entire programme from your phone or tablet, to view sessions by day and category or to locate exhibitors during the congress.



ECTRIMS for iPhone
Download on the App Store



ECTRIMS for Android
Get it on Google Play

Meeting Dates

ECTRIMS 2018

Berlin / Germany: 10 – 12 October 2018

ECTRIMS Regional Teaching Course 2018

Curitiba / Brazil: 2 – 3 November 2018

European Charcot Foundation 26th Annual Meeting

Baveno / Italy: 15 - 17 November 2018

RIMS Workshop: Rehabilitation in Progressive MS

Copenhagen / Denmark: 6 December 2018

ECTRIMS Focused Workshop 2019

Athens / Greece: 7 – 8 March 2019

ECTRIMS Summer School 2019

Dublin / Ireland: 18 – 20 June 2019

ECTRIMS 2019

Stockholm / Sweden: 11 – 13 September 2019

We are looking forward to seeing you in Berlin!

34TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR TREATMENT AND
RESEARCH IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

ECTRIMS

10 – 12 OCTOBER

2018

BERLIN, GERMANY



Please be aware of fraudulent organisations!

WARNING

There are an increasing number of fraudulent websites that impersonate ECTRIMS2018.

We would like to alert all participants to be aware of possible scams and to strongly advise you to only use the official ECTRIMS2018 registration and ECTRIMS accommodation agency Congrex Travel.

ECTRIMS Executive Committee

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
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