



**Connect
to the future:
our research
of excellence.**

Connecting MS

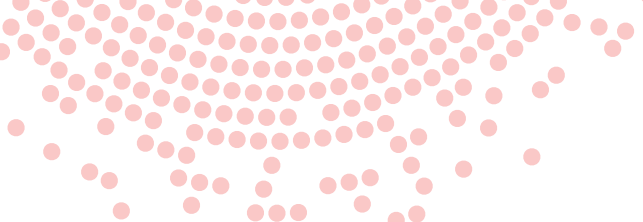
November 26th- 27th 2020

**ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC
CONGRESS
Italian MS Society
and its Foundation**

**SCLE^{ONLUS}
ROSI
MULT
iPLA**
associazione
italiana

un mondo
libero dalla SM

AISM. INSIEME, UNA CONQUISTA DOPO L'ALTRA



During these difficult times related to the Corona virus pandemic, one of the most undeniable lessons is this: cutting-edge research is something everyone deserves. Even so, research carries on, just as the disease does as well. The connections that have been developed over many years are more solid and vital than ever. It is no coincidence that the Italian Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation Congress, entitled “Connecting MS”, is an invitation to each of us to take an active part in influencing the impact of scientific research on people living with MS and on society in general.

The most effective strategies for facing healthcare issues related to multiple sclerosis call for a long-term investment in research, not only in economic terms, but also in the development of innovative organizational models that are capable of connecting clinical research with the everyday spectrum of care, as well as connecting multiple sclerosis with other diseases with similar research and care priorities.

The projects presented in this Congress represent the foundations of strategic connections from every area of scientific research. The science, that unites different diseases and the different stakeholders involved in them, is the basis of a new model of collective sustainability and a cross alliance in the fight against diseases such as multiple sclerosis, rare diseases and other neurological ones in order to accelerate the development of new treatments and promote the sustainability of research.

Thanks to engagement in promoting health research and care network we have been able to respond to the emergency and activate specific research initiatives that we will discuss during our Congress in a roundtable

dedicated to understanding the relationship between COVID 19 and MS.

The research portfolio of the Italian Multiple Sclerosis Foundation is at the forefront in addressing this challenge. Among the completed projects, six focus on neurorehabilitation and quality of life, decisive areas that have an impact on the lives of people living with MS today. Thirteen projects focus on disease pathogenesis and risk factors. Clearly basic research of excellence lays the foundation for a better understanding of the disease and the discovery of new therapies. Importantly, two projects have contributed to improving our understanding of diagnosis and disease monitoring and seven projects serve to open new channels of investigation into therapies.

Within the scope of creating connections, the true miles are the Special Projects chosen by FISM for support and include the national and international network for the study of mesenchymal and neural stem cells, concerted research on progressive forms of MS, international initiatives on Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO-MS), the Italian MS Register that aimed to create an organized multicenter structure to collect data from Italian MS clinical center of all MS patients, together with projects focused on personalized medicine and on disease prevention.

Promoting interdisciplinary, global collaborative research networks that encourages different stakeholders to work together during the whole research and innovation process is at the root of the Mission-Oriented Research and Innovation strategy promoted by the European Union and EU-funded MULTI-ACT project of which FISM is the coordinator.

Thursday November 26, 2020

- 10.30 – 10.45 **Mario Alberto Battaglia, Paola Zarin**
Introduction
- 10.45 – 11.00 **Gaetano Manfredi**
Italian Minister of University and Research
Research ecosystem in Italy
- 11.00 – 11.15 **Giovanni Leonardi**
Director - General for Research and Health Innovation, Italian Ministry of Health
Virtual Institute for Responsible Innovation
- 11.15 – 11.30 **PRIZES AND AWARDS SESSION**
Rita Levi Montalcini Prize
- 11.30 – 13.10 **Mission-oriented research**
Chairs: Mario Alberto Battaglia, Catherine Lubetzki
- 11.30 – 11.50 **Giuseppe Matarese**
The science connecting different biology
- 11.50 – 12.10 **Marco Salvetti**
The science connecting different diseases
- 12.10 – 12.30 **Gianvito Martino**
The science connecting different disciplines
- 12.30 – 12.50 **Giancarlo Comi**
International initiatives to promote the quality of care
- 12.50 – 13.10 **Ludovico Pedulla, Federico Bozzoli**
Science of Patient Input in Progressive MS. Measuring impact on outcome that matter to patients

- 14.00 – 15.00** **Round Table: Multiple Sclerosis and COVID 19**
Introduced by Paola Zarin
Chair: Mario A. Battaglia
Roberto Furlan, Bruno Musch, Francesco Patti, Marco Salvetti, Maria Pia Sormani, Maria Trojano
- 15.00 – 15.40** **From research to practice**
Chairs: Roberto Bergamaschi, Gianluigi Mancardi
- 15.00– 15.20** **Diego Centonze**
Studying mice to understand MS, studying MS to understand other diseases
- 15.20 - 15.40** **Alessandra Solari**
European Guideline on Palliative care of people with severe MS
- 15.40 – 17.25** **NEUROREHABILITATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE**
Chairs: Marco Bove, Monica Falautano, Matilde Inglese, Luca Prosperini
- 15.40 - 15.55** **Annalisa Barla**
Early DETECTION of Multiple Sclerosis progression driven by clinical scales and Patient Reported Outcome (DETECT-MS PRO)
- 15.55 - 16.10** **Franca Deriu**
Effectiveness of contralateral training in the management of muscle weakness and fatigue in individuals with multiple sclerosis
- 16.10 - 16.25** **Ludovico Pedullà**
Behavioural and neural correlates of dual tasks negotiation in ecological setting: an fNIRS study to investigate cognitive-motor interference after rehabilitation in people with multiple sclerosis

- 16.25 - 16.40 **Raffaella Chieffo**
Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation with the H-coil to enhance the effects of cognitive rehabilitation in people with progressive multiple sclerosis
- 16.40 - 16.55 **Letizia Leocani**
Effect of rTMS with H-coil for lower limb disturbances associated with walking disability in MS: a controlled, randomized, double blind Phase III study
- 16.55 - 17.10 **Alberto Priori**
Transcutaneous spinal cord and transcranial direct current stimulation as tools to improve spasticity in multiple sclerosis
- 17.10 - 17.25 **Discussion and conclusions**
Marco Bove, Monica Falautano, Matilde Inglese, Luca Prosperini

Friday November 27, 2020

- 09.00 – 9.30** **STAMINAL CELLS**
Antonio Uccelli
MESEMS: MEsenchymal StEm cells for Multiple Sclerosis
Introduced by Paola Zaratin
- 9.30 – 10.15** **DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING OF THE DISEASE**
Chairs: Gabriela Constantin, Miriam Mattosco
- 9.30 – 9.45** **Antonio Uccelli**
Therapeutic targeting of REST activity and expression to reduce neurodegeneration and synaptic deficits in chronic EAE
- 9.45 – 10.00** **Lucilla Nobbio**
Biomarkers to monitor demyelination and remyelination
- 10.00 – 10.15** **Discussion and conclusion**
Gabriela Constantin, Miriam Mattosco
- 10.15 – 13.45** **PATHOGENESIS AND RISK FACTORS**
Chairs: Francesco Cucca, Roberto Furlan, Stefano Previtali, Antonio Scalfari
- 10.15 – 10.30** **Vincenzo Brescia Morra**
Understanding a new trigger mechanism in multiple sclerosis mediated by the non-typeable Haemophilus Influenzae bacterium
- 10.30 – 10.45** **Michela Spadaro**
Pregnancy: a powerful transient immunosuppressive phenomenon in multiple sclerosis women

- 10.45 – 11.00 **Andrea Cossarizza**
Mitochondrial DAMPs in multiple sclerosis: a pilot study
- 11.00 – 11.15 **Barbara Serafini**
Study of immunopathological mechanisms in the multiple sclerosis brain: focus on Epstein-Barr virus specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes, NK cells and response to IFN-gamma
- 11.15 – 11.30 **Clara Ballerini**
Impact of successful immunomodulatory therapies in RRMS on human TCR repertoire by next generation sequencing
- 11.30 – 11.45 **Giuseppina Ruggiero**
CuZn Superoxide dismutase (SOD-1), intracellular Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS), T cell activation and immune tolerance control in multiple sclerosis
- 11.45 – 12.00 **Martina Gabrielli**
Microglia versus macrophage effects on oligodendrocyte precursor cells: role of extracellular vesicles
- 12.00 – 12.15 **Marcello Pinti**
Regulation of cell metabolism in lymphocytes from patients with progressive forms of multiple sclerosis
- 12.15 – 12.30 **Tiziana Vigo**
Identification of a neural circuit controlling the mobilization from the bone marrow of immune cells relevant for experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis induction
- 12.30 – 12.45 **Melissa Sorosina**
Involvement of NINJ2 protein in multiple sclerosis disease activity
- 12.45 – 13.00 **Michela Matteoli**
A humanized model of blood brain barrier to investigate immune cells infiltration in multiple sclerosis: toward a personalized medicine approach

- 13.00 – 13.15 **Roberta Brambilla**
Molecular mechanisms of the protective function of oligodendroglial TNFR2: a new therapeutic target in neuro-immune disease
- 13.15 – 13.30 **Vittorio Gallo**
Signaling mechanisms underlying Sox17-mediated oligodendrocyte generation and repair
- 13.30 – 13.45 **Discussion and conclusions**
Francesco Cucca, Roberto Furlan, Stefano Previtali, Antonio Scalfari
- 15.00 – 15.15 **PRIZES AND AWARDS SESSION**
Best Poster Award to young researcher fellowships
- 15.15 – 17.15 **TOWARDS NEW TREATMENTS**
Chairs: Massimiliano Di Filippo, Giovanni Ristori, Mara Rocca, Claudia Verderio
- 15.15 – 15.30 **Francesco Cucca**
Dissection of the BAFF pathway in multiple sclerosis with a view toward more specific and effective therapies
- 15.30 – 15.45 **Enzo Terreno**
In vivo dual MRI detection of T and B lymphocytes in a MS mouse model: implications in the pathogenesis and therapeutic treatment
- 15.45 – 16.00 **Nicoletta Galeotti**
Targeting neuropathic pain and axonal damage in multiple sclerosis through genetic modulation of ELAV RNA binding proteins
- 16.00 – 16.15 **Clementina Manera**
Multi-target modulation of the endocannabinoid system as an innovative therapeutic approach for multiple sclerosis

- 16.15 – 16.30 **Bruno Bonetti**
Homing and cell target of exosomes derived from adipose mesenchymal stem cells in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis
- 16.30 – 16.45 **Santina Bruzzone**
SIRT6 inhibition as a therapeutic approach for treating multiple sclerosis
- 16.45 – 17.00 **Loretta Tuosto**
Role of CD28 and associated class 1A PI3K in the regulation of the cellular metabolic programs associated to pro-inflammatory T cell responses in MS
- 17.00 – 17.15 **Discussion and conclusions**
Chairs: Massimiliano Di Filippo,
Giovanni Ristori Mara Rocca,
Claudia Verderio

CONCLUSION

POSTER

November 26th - 27th 2020

FISM Grant projects

NEUROREHABILITATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

- 1. Roberto Bergamaschi**
Costs of comorbidity and cost-effectiveness analysis of an integrated collaborative care program in multiple sclerosis people
- 2. Giulia Bommarito**
The dynamic functional connectome in progressive multiple sclerosis: novel approaches and clinical relevance
- 3. Carlo Trompetto**
Spastic dystonia in multiple sclerosis: the dark side of muscle hypertonia
- 4. Andrea Manca**
The effects of eccentric strength training on limb spasticity and muscle weakness in people with multiple sclerosis: a pilot study
- 5. Massimiliano Pau**
Innovative low-cost solutions based on virtual reality for upper limb home-based rehabilitation in multiple sclerosis
- 6. Davide Cattaneo**
Unraveling early walking dysfunction in non-disabled MS people: clinical and instrumental assessment of disease progression and potential therapeutic interventions
- 7. Sofia Straudi**
The role of video games therapy on balance and cognitive functions in mild to moderate impaired multiple sclerosis patients. A randomized control trial
- 8. Giancarlo Comi**
Measuring and remote monitoring of the effect of intensive rehabilitation in progressive MS using commercial wearable devices

9. **Marco Bove**
Monitoring and integrating the rehabilitative process of persons with multiple sclerosis by means of a prosthetic aid with biofeedback
10. **Luca Prosperini**
Using home-based exergames to improve cognitive function in multiple sclerosis: a multicenter, randomized, non-inferiority trial

DIAGNOSIS AND MONITORING OF THE DISEASE

11. **Francesca De Vito**
MicroRNAs in cerebrospinal fluid as potential biomarkers for synaptopathy-driven disease progression in multiple sclerosis
12. **Monica Biggio**
A combined neurophysiological and neuroimaging approach to explore the cortico-brainstem functionality in multiple sclerosis
13. **Linda Chaabane**
Set-up of Neural Stem Cells Imaging by 19F-MRI: labeling optimization, detection limits and biocompatibility tests
14. **Su-Chun Huang**
Combining Voxel-Based Morphometry of Optical Coherence Tomography and Multifocal Visual-Evoked Potential to study the relationship between demyelination and neurodegeneration in multiple sclerosis
15. **Roberta Magliozzi**
Structural and inflammatory components of cortical pathology in multiple sclerosis
16. **Maria Assunta Rocca**
Assessment of white matter atrophy in multiple sclerosis: fibre bundle shrinkage and microstructural axonal loss
17. **Massimo Filippi**
The role of brain network connectivity and machine learning for predicting disease worsening and cognitive impairment in patients with multiple sclerosis

PATHOGENESIS AND RISK FACTORS

18. **Rosella Mechelli**
Epstein-Barr virus genotypes in multiple sclerosis and their functional relevance in the disease etiology
19. **Marco Patrone**
Dissecting the molecular link between MS and Epstein-Barr nuclear antigen 2
20. **Cinthia Farina**
Mechanisms of astrocyte control in neuroinflammation
21. **Giuseppe Matarese**
Glycolysis as novel metabolic determinant linking immune tolerance and pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis
22. **Francesca Santoni de Sio**
Unraveling the role of aberrant epigenetic hubs in the pathogenic dysregulation of CD4+ T cells in multiple sclerosis
23. **Francesca Gilli**
Sex effects on intrathecal humoral inflammation and disease progression in multiple sclerosis
24. **Francesco Annunziato**
Molecular mechanisms that regulate T helper 17 lymphocytes proliferation and plasticity: implications for Multiple Sclerosis pathogenesis and progression
25. **Jens Geginat**
Suppression of pathogenic T-cell responses by type 1 regulatory-like T-cells in multiple sclerosis
26. **Veronica De Rosa**
Elucidating the extracellular vesicle-associated determinants modulating Foxp3 expression and suppressive function of T regulatory cells in multiple sclerosis
27. **Ilaria Decimo**
The role of meningeal neural progenitor cells in brain auto-reactive immune cell regulation
28. **Alice Laroni**
Impact of prebiotic/probiotic-mediated changes in microbe-derived metabolites on dysfunctional innate immune responses in multiple sclerosis

29. **Luca Muzio**
Targeting neuroinflammation by REcTO proteins
30. **Luca Peruzzotti-Jametti and Stefano Pluchino**
In vivo characterisation and manipulation of succinate-dependent injury in neuroinflammation
31. **Laura Piccio**
Role of TREM2 in modulating microglia function during CNS demyelination
32. **Mariarosaria Santillo**
Multiple sclerosis pathogenic antibodies targeting myelin forming cells
33. **Claudio Sette**
Role of IL-1 in the modulation of the pathogenic response of human Th17 cells in multiple sclerosis
34. **Elisabetta Volpe**
Study of the potential neuroprotective role of interleukin-9 in multiple sclerosis
35. **Angelo Ghezzi**
Identification of genetic risk factors and interaction between genetic and non-genetic risk factors in pediatric multiple sclerosis (PEDiatric Italian Genetic and enviRonment ExposurE)(PEDIGREE study)
36. **Roberto Furlan**
Single extra-micro-cellular vesicle sequencing analysis from human induced pluripotent stem cell derived microglia

TOWARDS NEW TREATMENTS

37. **Roberto Furlan**
Microglial microvesicles as therapeutic vector for neuroinflammation
38. **Claudia Verderio**
Circulating extracellular vesicles derived by myeloid cells: a window on synaptic dysfunction and a target for novel epigenetic intervention in MS
39. **Maria Pia Abbracchio**
Innovative re-myelinating strategies for multiple sclerosis via the exploitation of the new oligodendrocyte receptor GPR17

40. **Maria Letizia Trincavelli**
Crystal structure and functional characterization of the GPR17 receptor, a novel pharmacological target for remyelination therapy in multiple sclerosis
41. **Valerio Chiurchiù**
Specialized pro-resolving lipid mediators as a novel strategy to “resolve” the altered adaptive immune responses in multiple sclerosis
42. **Cristina Agresti**
Identification and validation of edaravone remyelinating targets in oligodendrocyte progenitor cells
43. **Raffaele d’Isa**
Can non-invasive neuromodulation promote remyelination? A pilot preclinical study
44. **Alessandro Didonna**
MiRNAs as novel potential tools to modulate myelination in the CNS
45. **Paolo Comoglio**
Activation of the Met receptor as therapeutic tool in MS: a new neuroprotective mechanism involving the glutamatergic system
46. **Valeria Tosti**
Impact of Intermittent Fasting on a Mouse Model of Multiple Sclerosis
47. **Placido Illiano**
Enhancing TNFR2 signaling in the CNS for multiple sclerosis therapy
48. **Fabrizio Michetti**
The S100B protein as a potential therapeutic target in multiple sclerosis. An in vivo study
49. **Stefano Carlo Previtali**
Role of Jab1 and senescence in the pathogenesis of progressive MS in a mouse model
50. **Francesco Ria**
Janus-faced liposomes as therapeutic tools to drive T suppressor phenotype in multiple sclerosis
51. **Ildiko Szabo**
Towards specific elimination of autoreactive pathogenic T lymphocytes implicated in MS

52. **Gianvito Martino**
Multi fold transplant strategy of engineered neural stem cells to promote remyelination and neuroprotection in multiple sclerosis

The Italian Neuroimaging Network Initiative (INNI)

53. **Massimo Filippi**
Moving atrophy quantification for research setting to clinical practice
54. **Nicola De Stefano**
Large-scale, multi-centre assessment of hippocampal volume in MS patients
55. **Patrizia Pantano**
The impact of functional connectivity changes on disease progression and disability accumulation
56. **Gioachino Tedeschi**
Structural and functional MRI determinants of cognitive-radiological mismatch in MS patients

Italian Multiple Sclerosis Register

DESCRIPTIVE EPIDEMIOLOGY

57. **Lorena Lorefice**
Clinical characteristics and disease outcomes of late onset multiple sclerosis: a retrospective multicenter study
58. **Giuseppe Fenu**
Changes of clinical and demographic characteristics in patients with MS diagnosis during the various decades between 1983 and 2016
59. **Jessica Frau**
Evaluation of baseline prognostic factors in a large Italian cohort of patients with multiple sclerosis
60. **Paola Mosconi on behalf of Scientific Committee**
The use of a roving EDSS reference value to enhance detection of EDSS worsening events: A real world evaluation through the Italian MS Register

61. **Maria Trojano**
INTEREST: Italian Multiple Sclerosis Registry non interventional retrospective analysis in secondary progressive multiple sclerosis
62. **Mario Alberto Battaglia on behalf of Scientific Committee**
Validate a case definition of MS using different electronic (health and social) record: case study on selected provinces of Emilia Romagna Region

THERAPY OPTIMIZATION

63. **Maria Pia Amato**
Assessing efficacy and safety of treatments in progressive multiple sclerosis
64. **Damiano Paolicelli**
Retrospective study to evaluate the long-term impact of different treatment strategies on disability outcomes in patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis. Italian IMedWeb MS Registry. RE.LO.DI.MS Study
65. **Maria Trojano**
Profiling treatment choices in MS during two different eras: a real world assessment in the Italian MS Registry
66. **Maria Trojano**
Big Multiple Sclerosis Data (BMSD) network
67. **Francesco Patti**
Retrospective pilot study on long-term Cladribine effects in patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis or clinically isolated syndrome
68. **Emanuele D'Amico**
Comparative effectiveness of initial treatment choices for multiple sclerosis: a multicentre study
69. **Emanuele D'Amico**
Exploring phenotype and recovery from relapses in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis patients: old versus new disease-modifying therapies
70. **Matilde Inglese**
Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for secondary progressive multiple sclerosis: a comparative study with matched control patients from the Italian Multiple Sclerosis Register

71. **Diana Ferraro**
Risks associated with wash-out duration when switching from fingolimod to cell-depleting agents
72. **Francesco Patti**
Comparative effectiveness of different Natalizumab dosing schedules in real world life: a retrospective Italian multicenter study
73. **Matilde Inglese**
The concept of persistence in disability improvement: an application of Markov model to treated patients from the Italian Registry
74. **Roberto Bergamaschi**
Early prediction of unfavorable evolution of Clinically Isolated Syndrome (CIS) patients. RECIS (Risk Estimate for CIS) study
75. **Maria Trojano**
INSPIRA - Italian analysis of the National multiple sclerosis registry Studying the concept of Progression Independent from Relapse Activity
76. **Maria Trojano**
Early-aggressive treatment algorithm versus classical escalation therapy in relapsing multiple sclerosis
77. **Marzia Romeo**
Predictive factors of disability progression in a large cohort of Italian multiple sclerosis patients

RARE FORMS OF MS

78. **Maria Pia Amato**
E-MUSIC: Early Multiple Sclerosis Italian Cohort
79. **Damiano Baroncini**
Assessing the clinical course of pediatric onset multiple sclerosis in different treatment eras: are we really modifying the disease?

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