

ENCEPHALITIS CONFERENCE



2ND – 3RD DECEMBER 2024

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS, LONDON
AND VIRTUALLY**

This annual event is the go-to conference on encephalitis. It is dedicated exclusively to encephalitis (infectious and autoimmune aetiologies) and covers epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation in both children and adults. It is an excellent forum for physicians, scientists, researchers, and healthcare professionals to exchange ideas, knowledge and clinical experience relating to encephalitis.

**Federation of Royal College of
Physicians (UK) CPD credits pending
approval**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- **Professor Michael Wilson**
UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, USA
"Metagenomics, Encephalitis and Global Health"
- **Dr Marianna Spatola**, University of Barcelona
and La Caixa Research Institute, Spain
*"Functional Effects of Antibodies in Infectious
and Autoimmune Encephalitis"*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- **Dr Ava Easton**, Encephalitis International &
University of Liverpool, UK
*"Brains on Fire: Patient Outcomes and Quality
of Life Following Encephalitis"*
- **Dr Bhagteshwar Singh**, University of Liverpool
& Royal Liverpool University Hospital, UK
*"Improving Diagnosis and Management
of People with Brain Infections in Brazil, India
and Malawi"*

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Therapeutics, Roche, Argenx, Research for Ronan,
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NMDAR Encephalitis Trial, University of Liverpool
Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological
Sciences, Delve Bio, bioMérieux, James Tudor
Foundation, Thriplow Charitable Trust,
The Lancet Neurology, ACNR*



**Encephalitis
International**
The brain inflammation non-profit

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Encephalitis International is a Named Fund member of the Chapel & York US Foundation,
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PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 3rd December

8:30 **Registration**

9:00 **Welcome/Introduction**

Dr Nicholas Davies, Chair Advisory Scientific Panel, Encephalitis International

Dr Ava Easton, CEO Encephalitis International & University of Liverpool

SESSION 1 CHAIRS:

Prof Carsten Finke,
Charite - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Dr James Sejvar, University of Pittsburgh, USA

9:05 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1**

Functional Effects of Antibodies in Infectious and Autoimmune Encephalitis

Dr Marianna Spatola

IDIBAPS Research Institute, University of Barcelona and La Caixa Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain; Hospital of Sion, Switzerland

9:30 *Discussion*

9:35 DPPX autoantibodies reduce A-type potassium currents and increase excitability in hippocampal neurons

Dr Sarah Crisp, University of Cambridge, UK

9:45 *Discussion*

9:50 An international validation of the SEIZURE score for predicting acute seizure risk in encephalitis

Dr Thomas Hughes, University of Liverpool, UK

10:00 *Discussion*

10:05 Brain atrophy in patients with anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis

Ms Hannah Tenenbaum, Charite - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

10:15 *Discussion*

10:20 Validation of the encephalitis criteria in patients with a suspected central nervous system infection: an updated score

Dr Steven L. Staal, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

10:30 *Discussion*

10:35 Psychiatric manifestations of encephalitis

Dr Ralph Habis, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA

10:45 *Discussion*

10:50 **TEA/COFFEE/POSTER VIEWING**

SESSION 2 CHAIRS:

Dr Nicholas Davies, Chelsea and Westminster, Charing Cross, and the Royal Marsden Hospitals, London, UK

Prof Arun Venkatesan, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA

11:10 Early corticosteroid treatment appears to improve the outcome of HSV encephalitis
Professor Tom Solomon, CBE, The Pandemic Institute; National Institute for Health and Care Research Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections, Liverpool, UK

11:20 *Discussion*

11:25 Glycine-receptor antibody mediated CNS effects in vivo: a preliminary study

Dr Manoj Upadhyay, Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment, Aston University, UK

11:35 *Discussion*

11:40 Microbiological investigations for chikungunya virus in children with acute encephalitis syndrome in a non-outbreak setting in Southern India

Ms Maria Jose, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences(NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

11:50 *Discussion*

11:55 Investigating T cell immunity in anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis

Dr Rachel Brown, University College London, UK

12:05 *Discussion*

12:10 Clinical outcomes of adults with suspected encephalitis and meningitis in a high HIV prevalence setting, Blantyre, Malawi

Dr Lerato Mambulu, Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi

12:20 *Discussion*

12:25 **INVITED GUEST LECTURE 1**

Brains on Fire: Patient Outcomes and Quality of Life Following Encephalitis

Dr Ava Easton, Encephalitis International

12:50 *Discussion*

12:55 **LUNCH**

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SESSION 3 CHAIRS:

Dr Matteo Gastaldi, Neuroimmunology
Research Unit & Diagnostic Laboratory, Pavia,
Italy

Assoc Prof Kiran Thakur, Columbia University
Irving Medical Center, USA

14:10 KEYNOTE LECTURE 2

Metagenomics, Encephalitis and Global
Health

Prof Michael Wilson, UCSF Weill Institute for
Neurosciences; Director, UCSF Center for
Encephalitis and Meningitis, San Francisco,
USA

14:35 *Discussion*

14:40 Money talks: the cost of encephalitis
Dr Thomas Agerbo Gaist, Odense University
Hospital, Denmark

14:50 *Discussion*

14:55 Encephalitis International Seed Funding

Differentiating viral encephalitis from its
mimics in patients with encephalitis of
unknown aetiology
Dr John Kasibante, Makerere University,
Kampala, Uganda

Validation of the Pediatric Autoimmune
Encephalitis Severity Score (PASS) in children
with autoimmune encephalitis
Assoc Prof Priyanka Madaan
Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences,
Faridabad Haryana, India

15:10 *Discussion*

15:15 **BREAK**

SESSION 4 CHAIRS:

Dr Ava Easton, Encephalitis International &
University of Liverpool, UK

Prof Benedict Michael, University of Liverpool &
The Walton Center, Liverpool, UK

15:45 Initial findings of the SAPIENCE project:
insights from caregivers

Dr Ole Jonas Boeken, Charite -
Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

15:55 *Discussion*

16:00 DEBATE

**Encephalitis Research Fails to Improve
Diagnosis and Treatment in Low-to-Middle
Income Countries (LMIC)**

Chair: Assoc Prof Deanna Saylor, Johns
Hopkins University School of Medicine,
USA & University Teaching Hospital and the
University of Zambia School of Medicine,
Lusaka, Zambia

Dr Mashina Chomba, University Teaching
Hospital – Adult Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia

Prof Gagandeep Singh, Dayanand Medical
College Ludhiana, India

16:30 INVITED GUEST LECTURE 2

Improving Diagnosis and Management of
People with Brain Infections in Brazil, India
and Malawi

Dr Bhagteshwar Singh, University of Liverpool
& Royal Liverpool University Hospital, UK

16:55 *Discussion*

17:00 Encephalitis International: Our Year
Phillippa Chapman, Encephalitis International

17:05 Awards and call to action
Dr Nicholas Davies, Chair Advisory Scientific
Panel, Encephalitis International

Dr Ava Easton, CEO Encephalitis International

17:15 **DRINKS AND NETWORKING RECEPTION**

Encephalitis International Scientific Advisory Panel



Dr Nicholas Davies

Chair of the Encephalitis International Scientific Advisory Panel
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital London, UK

Prof Benedict Michael

Vice chair of the Encephalitis International Scientific Advisory Panel
NIHR HPRU for Emerging and Zoonotic Infection, University of Liverpool,
The Walton Centre, Liverpool, UK

Dr Sophie Binks

Nuffield Department of Clinical
Neurosciences, University of Oxford, UK

Dr Tina Damodar

India alliance (Wellcome Trust/ DBT)
Clinical & Public Health Fellow,
Department of Neurovirology, National
Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences
(NIMHANS), Bangalore, India

Dr Bonnie-Kate Dewar

Neuropsychology Services Limited
London, UK

Dr Ava Easton

CEO, Encephalitis International
University of Liverpool
Liverpool, UK

Prof Carsten Finke

Charité Berlin
Berlin School of Brain and Mind, Humboldt
Universität
Berlin, Germany

Dr Jessica Fish

Institute of Health and Wellbeing,
University of Glasgow
Glasgow, UK

Dr Matteo Gastaldi

Neuroimmunology Research Unit, IRCCS
Mondino Foundation
Pavia, Italy

Prof Sarosh R. Irani

Mayo Clinic, Florida, USA
Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, UK

Prof Peter GE Kennedy CBE

Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology,
University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK
Queen Mary University of London
London, UK

Assoc Prof Kiran Thakur

Columbia University Irving Medical
Center, New York, USA

Dr Rachel Kneen

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation
Trust
Institute of Infection & Global Health,
University of Liverpool
Liverpool, UK

Prof Frank Leypoldt

Inst. of Clinical Chemistry and
Laboratory Medicine, Kiel University
Kiel, Germany

Prof Nick Makwana

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS
Trust, Birmingham, UK

Dr Thomas Pollak

Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and
Neuroscience, King's College London
South London and Maudsley NHS
Foundation Trust, London, UK

Dr Stephen Ray

University of Oxford, UK

Dr James J. Sejvar

Department of Neurology
University of Pittsburgh and
University of Pittsburgh Medical
Center; USA
Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School
Singapore

Assist Prof Omar K. Siddiqi

Harvard Medical School
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,
Boston, USA
University of Zambia School of
Medicine, Zambia

Dr Arleta Starza Smith

Paediatric Neuropsychology Services,
Nottingham and London,
Hon Consultant NUH NHS

Prof Tom Solomon CBE

The Pandemic Institute
NIHR HPRU in Emerging and Zoonotic
Infections
Brain Infections Group
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust
and Royal Liverpool University Hospital
Liverpool, UK

Assoc Prof Maarten Titulaer

Erasmus University Medical Center
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Dr Michel Toledano

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA

Prof. Lance Turtle

Clinical Infection, Microbiology and
Immunology
University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Prof Arun Venkatesan

Johns Hopkins University School of
Medicine
John Hopkins Encephalitis Centre
Baltimore, MD, USA

Prof Angela Vincent

Somerville College, University of Oxford
Oxford, UK

Dr Steven White

Cromwell Hospital, London, UK

Professor Michael Wilson

Neurology UCSF Weill Institute for
Neurosciences,
School of Medicine, San Francisco, USA

Dr Greta Wood

University of Liverpool, UK