

# ENCEPHALITIS CONFERENCE



**3RD – 4TH DECEMBER 2025**  
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.

*This event is supported by:  
Arialy Therapeutics, Argenx,  
Valneva, Svar Wieslab, Euroimmun,  
IBRO, Thriplow Charitable Trust,  
The Lancet Neurology,  
Camino Communications,  
ACNR, Routledge*

## PROGRAMME

### DAY 1: Wednesday 3rd December

- 8:00 **REGISTRATION**
- 8:55 **Welcome**  
Prof Benedict Michael, Chair Scientific Advisory Panel  
Encephalitis International & University of Liverpool, UK  
  
Prof Carsten Finke, Chair Conference Committee &  
Charité Berlin, Germany
- 9:00 **Basic Clinical Introduction to Infectious Encephalitis**  
Dr Nicholas Davies, Chelsea and Westminster, Charing  
Cross, and the Royal Marsden Hospitals, London, UK
- 9:45 **Basic Clinical Introduction to Autoimmune Encephalitis**  
Dr Sophie Binks, Nuffield Department of Clinical  
Neurosciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- 10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:45 **Clinical Case Presentation**  
Dr Nicholas Davies, Chelsea and Westminster, Charing  
Cross, and the Royal Marsden Hospitals, London, UK  
(Infectious Encephalitis)  
  
Dr Matteo Gastaldi, Neuroimmunology Research Unit  
Pavia, Italy  
(Autoimmune Encephalitis)
- 11:45 **How to Get Your Grant or Fellowship**  
Assoc Prof Deanna Saylor, UNC School of Medicine, USA  
Dr Sadif Huda, Walton Centre Foundation Trust &  
University of Liverpool
- 12:30 **Lunch**
- 13:15 **Satellite Meeting**  
Advancing Travel Health: Innovations in Vaccination  
Against Mosquito-Borne Threats - sponsored by Valneva
- 14:15 **Data Blitz Session** (to include 20 minute break)  
*See programme on following page*
- 17:00 **Drinks Reception/Poster Presentations**
- 18:30 **LONDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALKING TOUR**



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

Encephalitis International is a registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee.  
Registered in England and Wales No. 04189027. Registered Charity No. 1087843. Registered Charity in Scotland: SC048210.  
Encephalitis International is a Named Fund member of the Chapel & York US Foundation, Inc. The Chapel & York US Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organisation.

# 2025

## DATABLITZ SESSION

### DAY 1: Wednesday 3rd December, 14:00 - 17:00

- |       |  |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 14:15 | Clinical and cognitive outcomes in anti-LGI1 encephalitis are linked to multimodal structural MRI changes<br><b>Wei Zhao, Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin Germany</b>   | 15:50 | A clinical and paraclinical overview of patients with autoimmune brainstem encephalitis<br><b>Dr Mengzhi Jin, Erasmus Medical Center &amp; the First Affiliated Hospital of NanChang University, The Netherlands/China</b>       |
| 14:25 | Cerebrospinal fluid lipidome in central nervous system infections: A study of diagnostic accuracy<br><b>Dr Steven L. Staal, Amsterdam UMC &amp; University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands</b>                                 | 16:00 | ICU complications in patients with autoimmune encephalitis<br><b>Dr Maryam Al Hashmi, University of Toronto, Canada</b>  |
| 14:35 | Cerebrospinal fluid proteomics highlight immune dysregulation and nucleosome involvement in antibody associated autoimmune encephalitis<br><b>Dr Chloe Bost, University Hospital of Toulouse, France</b>                     | 16:10 | Development of a patient reported outcome measure in infectious encephalitis: what matters most to patients<br><b>Dr Stephen McKeever, Brain Infection &amp; Inflammation Group, Liverpool, UK</b>                               |
| 14:45 | Intrathecal and peripheral molecular profiling of paraneoplastic neurological syndromes<br><b>Dr Daniela Esser, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein Kiel/Lübeck, Germany</b>  | 16:20 | Psychiatric symptoms and memory dysfunction in anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis are linked to altered structural brain complexity<br><b>Dr Stephan Krohn, Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany</b>                         |
| 14:55 | Pathogen detection in paediatric febrile coma in Malawi: Insights from next-generation sequencing<br><b>Dr Stephen Ray, University of California, San Francisco, USA</b>   | 16:30 | Glutamate receptor antibody-associated encephalitis in children: a systematic review<br><b>Mr Iann Messias Lima Eufrazio, Universidade Santo Amaro (UNISA), São Paulo, Brazil</b>  |
| 15:05 | HSV-1 infection drives neuronal network hyperexcitability and hypersynchrony in an in vitro model of seizures in herpes simplex encephalitis<br><b>Dr Claire D. Hetherington, University of Liverpool, UK</b>                | 16:40 | Neuroimmunology of catatonia: indirect immunofluorescence for detecting markers of autoimmunity<br><b>Ms Doyeon Angela Lee, University of Cambridge &amp; Queen Square Institute of Neurology, University College London, UK</b> |
| 15:15 | Combined white matter microstructural damage and hippocampal atrophy in anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis and multiple sclerosis overlap syndrome<br><b>Dr. Joseph Kuchling, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany</b> | 16:50 | Autoimmune encephalitis-associated epilepsy: the MAM/Pilocarpine Rat as a new preclinical paradigm<br><b>Dr Francesca Colciaghi, Foundation IRCCS Neurological Institute Carlo Besta, Milano, Italy</b>                          |
| 15:25 | <b>BREAK</b>   |       |  |

# PROGRAMME

DAY 2: Thursday 4th December

8:00 **Registration**

8:30 **Poster Presentations**

9:15 **Welcome**

Prof Benedict Michael, Chair Advisory Scientific Panel,  
Encephalitis International & University of Liverpool

Dr Ava Easton, CEO Encephalitis International & University of Liverpool

## SESSION 1 CHAIRS:

Prof Benedict Michael

Dr Ava Easton

### 9:20 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1**

Contributions of Pathology to the Understanding  
of Antibody-mediated Neurological Diseases

**Prof Romana Höftberger**

Medical University of Vienna, Austria

9:45 *Discussion*

9:50 Identification of LGI1-reactive long-lived plasma  
cells in the bone marrows of patients with LGI1-  
antibody encephalitis

**Dr Bryan Ceronie, Oxford Autoimmune**

**Neurology Group, University of Oxford, UK**

10:00 *Discussion*

10:05 Extensive characterization of HSV1 antibody  
responses in herpes encephalitis reveals  
compartmentalization in CSF and predicts  
development of post-herpes autoimmune  
encephalitis

**Dr Marianna Spatola, IDIBAPS, University of  
Barcelona & Caixa Research Institute, Spain**

10:15 *Discussion*

10:20 Immunological signature to guide treatment in  
anti-NMDAR encephalitis

**Dr T.M. Bienfait, Erasmus MC University Medical  
Centre, The Netherlands**

10:30 *Discussion*

10:35 Extent, pattern, and domains of neurological  
sequelae among pediatric survivors of Japanese  
Encephalitis and Scrub Typhus Encephalitis in  
Northern India: Findings from a cohort study

**Dr Ashok Kumar Pandey, ICMR-Regional  
medical Research Centre, Gorakhpur, India**

10:45 *Discussion*

10:50 **BREAK/POSTER VIEWING**

## SESSION 2 CHAIRS:

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

11:10 Executive and attentional impairments in  
autoimmune cerebellitis: another model of  
Cerebellar Cognitive Affective Syndrome.  
**Dr Marie Rafiq, Toulouse University Hospital,  
France**

11:20 *Discussion*

11:25 What can in vitro BBB models teach us about  
HSV-1 encephalitis?  
**Miss Sarah Boardman, University of Liverpool,  
UK**

11:35 *Discussion*

11:40 Seizures, epilepsy und associated factors in  
236 patients with anti-LGI1 encephalitis  
**Dr Tobias Baumgartner, University Hospital  
Bonn, Germany**

11:50 *Discussion*

11:55 The distinctive psychopathology of NMDAR-  
antibody encephalitis by comparison to  
primary psychoses: an international multi-  
centre analysis  
**Dr Adam Al-Diwani, University of Oxford, UK**

12:05 *Discussion*

12:10 Autobiographical amnesia after LGI1-limbic  
encephalitis results from reduced mnemonic  
distinctiveness and stability  
**Dr Tom Miller, UCL, UK**

12:20 *Discussion*

12:25 **LUNCH/POSTER VIEWING**

13:10 Satellite Meeting  
Development of First in Class Precision  
Medicine for Anti-NMDA Receptor Encephalitis  
- sponsored by Atrialys Therapeutics

### SESSION 3 CHAIRS:

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

14:10 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2**  
WHO Technical Brief on Encephalitis: Ways  
Forward  
**Dr Nicoline Schiess, World Health  
Organization**

14:35 *Discussion*

14:40 Living with NMDAR encephalitis: caregivers'  
insights into long-term challenges and  
support needs  
**Dr Marta Duda-Sikula, Wroclaw Medical  
University, Poland**

14:50 *Discussion*

14:55 Psychiatric and behavioural sequelae  
following encephalitis: a systematic review  
and meta analysis  
**Dr Jack B Fanshawe, University of Oxford,  
UK**

15:05 *Discussion*

15:10 **BREAK/POSTER VIEWING**

### SESSION 4 CHAIRS:

Prof Carsten Finke, Charité Berlin, Germany

15:30 NeuroQuiz

16:30 **INVITED GUEST LECTURE**  
EAN-ESCMID Guidelines on the Diagnosis and  
Management of Encephalitis in Adults Caused  
by Infection  
**Prof Tom Solomon CBE, The Pandemic  
Institute & University of Liverpool, UK**

16:55 *Discussion*

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

17:05 Awards and call to action  
**Prof Benedict Michael  
Dr Ava Easton**

17:15 **DRINKS AND NETWORKING RECEPTION**