

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

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PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Wednesday 3rd December

SESSION 1 CHAIRS:

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

**Prof Carsten Finke, Chair Conference Committee &
Charité Berlin, Germany**

8:00 **REGISTRATION**

8:50 **Welcome**

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

Prof Carsten Finke, Chair Conference Committee &
Charité Berlin, Germany

8:55 **Basic Clinical Introduction to Infectious Encephalitis**

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

9:40 **Basic Clinical Introduction to Autoimmune Encephalitis**

Dr Sophie Binks, Nuffield Department of Clinical
Neurosciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

10:25 **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
Prof Tom Solomon CBE, The Pandemic Institute, Academy
of Medical Sciences, & University of Liverpool, UK
Dr Saif Huda, Walton Centre Foundation Trust & University
of Liverpool

12:30 **Lunch**

14:10 **Data Blitz Session 2 (to include 20 minute break)**

See programme on following page

17:00 **Drinks Reception/Poster Presentations**

DATABLITZ SESSION

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

SESSION 2 CHAIRS:

Prof Carsten Finke, Charité Berlin, Germany

Dr Sophie Binks, University of Oxford, UK

Dr Thomas Pollak, Kings College London

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

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

Prof Sarosh Irani, Mayo Clinic, USA

11:10 **INVITED GUEST LECTURE**

Tick-borne Encephalitis (TBE) –
From Epidemiology to Vaccination –
Where Do We Stand?

Dr Andreas Pilz, Pfizer Corporation Austria

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 Executive and attentional impairments in
autoimmune cerebellitis: another model of
Cerebellar Cognitive Affective Syndrome.

**Dr Marie Rafiq, Toulouse University Hospital,
France**

12:35 *Discussion*

12:40 What can in vitro BBB models teach us about
HSV-1 encephalitis?

**Miss Sarah Boardman, University of Liverpool,
UK**

12:50 *Discussion*

12:55 **LUNCH/POSTER VIEWING**

SESSION 3 CHAIRS:

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

Prof Tom Solomon CBE, The Pandemic Institute, Academy of Medical Sciences, & University of Liverpool, UK

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

Assoc Prof Kiran Thakur, Columbia University, USA

15:30 A new Patient-Reported Outcome Scale to assess Encephalitis: the PROSE score
Dr Juliette Brenner, Erasmus University Medical Centre, the Netherlands

15:45 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**