

ENCEPHALITIS CONFERENCE



7TH – 8TH DECEMBER 2026
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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PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Monday 7th December

SESSION 1 CHAIRS:

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

Assist Prof Matteo Gastaldi
Research Unit in Pavia & University of Pavia, Italy
Chair of Encephalitis Conference Committee

- 8:30 **REGISTRATION**
- 9:25 **WELCOME**
- 9:30 **Basic Clinical Introduction to Infectious Encephalitis**
Dr Nicholas Davies, Chelsea and Westminster, Charing Cross, and the Royal Marsden Hospitals, London, UK
- 10:15 **Basic Clinical Introduction to Autoimmune Encephalitis**
Dr Sophie Binks, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford, UK
- 11:00 **BREAK**
- 11:20 **Clinical Case Presentation**
Dr James Sejvar, University of Pittsburgh, USA

Assoc Prof Maarten Titulaer, Erasmus University Medical Center, The Netherlands
- 12:20 **How to Get Your Grant or Fellowship**
Dr Greta Wood, University of Liverpool, UK
- 13:00 **LUNCH/SATELLITE MEETING**
- 13.30 **Poster viewing**
- 14:20 **Data Blitz Session 2** (to include 20 minute break)
See programme on following page
- 17:00 **DRINKS RECEPTION/POSTER PRESENTATIONS**
- 18:00 **LONDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WALKING TOUR**



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

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CPD points applied for

DAY 1: Monday 7th December**SESSION 2:**

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| 14:25 | Beyond infection: evaluating autoimmune encephalitis in pediatric febrile coma in Malawi
Dr Mary Karalius, University of California, San Francisco, USA | 15:45 | Early recognition of encephalitis in children: knowledge, practices, and barriers among pediatric nursing staff at CHU Ibn Rochd, Casablanca, Morocco
Mr Hamza Romandi, Ibn Rochd University Hospital Center, Morocco |
| 14:35 | Antibody glycosylation profiles are compartmentalized and associate with trigger and outcome in anti-NMDAR encephalitis
Ms Laura Marmolejo, University of Barcelona, Spain and Caixa Research Institute (CRI), Barcelona, Spain | 15:55 | Latent Phenotypes and Prognosis in Severe Encephalitis
Dr Chiara Risso, Universite Paris Cite, France |
| 14:45 | Characterization of relapses in anti-NMDAR encephalitis
Dr Tessa M. Bienfait, Erasmus MC, The Netherlands | 16:05 | Diagnostic utility of Phage ImmunoPrecipitation Sequencing in neuroinfectious and neuroinflammatory diseases
Ms Barbara Nieuwenhuijsen, Amsterdam University Medical Center, The Netherlands |
| 14:55 | Are we listening to patients with encephalitis? What their narratives reveal about diagnosis and care
Anne Caroline Marcos Msc, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (IOC/Fiocruz), Brazil | 16:15 | Brain network changes in paediatric autoimmune encephalitis and ADEM: evidence from resting-state fMRI
Dr Meirvaan Basra, Aston University, Birmingham, UK |
| 15:05 | Cognitive profiles and longitudinal recovery in autoimmune limbic encephalitis: a comparative antibody-stratified cohort study
Dr Francesco Deleo, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta, Italy | 16:25 | CNS-migratory GAD65-specific B cells drive IIFN- γ responses in GAD65 autoimmunity
Jan Bartosch MSc, LMU Klinikum, Germany |
| 15:15 | Circulating B cells in patients with LGI1 and GAD65 encephalitis
Suzanne Franken MSc, Erasmus MC, The Netherlands | 16:35 | The diagnostic yield of whole body [18F]FDG PET/CT in the investigation of neurological conditions
Dr James Varley, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust London, UK |
| 15:25 | BREAK | 16:45 | Efficacy and safety of bortezomib in paediatric anti-NMDAR encephalitis: a retrospective international cohort study
Dr Alessandro Santagostino Barbone, University of Genoa, Italy; Evelina London Children's Hospital, UK |

PROGRAMME

DAY 2: Tuesday 8th December

8:00 **Registration**

8:30 **Poster Presentations**

9:10 **Welcome**

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

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

SESSION 1:

9:15 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1**

Immunotherapies for Infectious Encephalitis
**Dr Irene Cortese, National Institute of
Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH
Bethesda, USA**

9:40 *Discussion*

9:45 Long-term outcomes of childhood encephalitis
in Australia: Burden and predictors from
the Australian Childhood Encephalitis (ACE)
prospective multicentre cohort
Dr Gautam J Rao, University of Sydney, Australia

9:55 *Discussion*

10:00 Intrathecal immune signatures in IgLON5 disease
**Dr Martijn van Duijn, Erasmus MC University
Medical Centre, The Netherlands**

10:10 *Discussion*

10:15 Identification of Leiomodin-1 autoantibody as
a novel biomarker in cryptogenic new-onset
refractory status epilepticus
**Dr Soo Jean Shin, Seoul National University
Hospital, South Korea**

10:25 *Discussion*

10:30 Microglial depletion drives peripheral immune
cell repopulation of the brain which protects
the central nervous system from bacterial
meningoencephalitis
**Prof Federico Iovino, Karolinska Institute,
Sweden**

10:40 *Discussion*

10:45 A Seat at the Table — or Building a New Table?
The evolving role of Encephalitis International in
global research
**Dr Ava Easton MBE, Encephalitis International &
University of Liverpool, UK**

11:00 *Discussion*

11:05 **BREAK/POSTER VIEWING**

SESSION 2:

11:25 Intercompartmental B cells in autoimmune
encephalitis after herpes simplex virus
encephalitis reveal mechanisms of autoantibody
production
Dr Jonathan Cleaver, University of Oxford, UK

11:35 *Discussion*

11:40 Baseline characteristics and treatment
heterogeneity in NMDAR-IgG autoimmune
encephalitis: an international multicenter
analysis from the clinical outcomes in
autoimmune encephalitis study (COAST)
Assoc Prof Amy Kunchok, Cleveland Clinic, USA

11:50 *Discussion*

11:55 Diagnostic, treatment, and follow-up practice
variation in encephalitis of unknown etiology:
the neuroinfections emerging in the Americas
Study (NEAS) In Colombia
**Dr Maria Reyes-Mantilla, Hospital Simon Bolivar,
Colombia**

12:05 *Discussion*

12:10 CSF host transcriptomics predicts infectious
causes and outcomes of febrile coma in
Malawian children
Dr Mary Karalius, University of California, USA

12:20 *Discussion*

12:25 **GUEST LECTURE 2**

From Acute Care to Real Life: Improving
Outcomes That Matter to Patients
**Sophia Rekers MSc, Berlin School of Mind and
Brain, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin,
Germany**

12:50 *Discussion*

12:55 **LUNCH/POSTER VIEWING**

SESSION 3:

- 14:10 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2**
Where You Live Shouldn't Decide if You Survive: Encephalitis in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
Dr Jamil Said, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) and Moi University School of Medicine (MUSOM); AMPATH, Kenya
- 14:35 *Discussion*
- 14:40 Single-cell immune profiling reveals shared and subtype-specific immune signatures across autoimmune encephalitis syndromes
Dr Daniela Esser, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
- 14:50 *Discussion*
- 14:55 INSPIRE: intimacy, sex, and partnership in recovery from encephalitis
Ms Laora Tobelaim-Chimchirian MSc, King's College London, UK
- 15:05 *Discussion*
- 15:10 **BREAK/POSTER VIEWING**

SESSION 4:

- 15:30 Diverging recovery trajectories in LGI1 and NMDA receptor encephalitis: a longitudinal outcome analysis with group-specific predictor modelling
Dr Juri Habicht, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- 15:45 NeuroQuizz
- 16:30 **INVITED GUEST LECTURE**
When Antibodies Are Absent: Progress and Priorities in Seronegative Autoimmune Encephalitis
Prof Soon-Tae Lee, Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea
- 16:55 *Discussion*
- 17:00 Encephalitis International: Our Year
Phillippa Chapman, Encephalitis International, UK
- 17:05 Awards and call to action
**Prof Benedict Michael
Dr Ava Easton**
- 17:15 **DRINKS AND NETWORKING RECEPTION**