

# Mellen Center Update in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Friday, June 20, 2025 | Hybrid Meeting

*An update in understanding and managing MS*

InterContinental Hotel & Conference Center

[www.ccfme.org/MS](http://www.ccfme.org/MS)

## About the Symposium

Welcome to the 2025 Mellen Center Update in Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This is our 17th symposium and we are thrilled with the agenda for this year's program. The biggest change to this year's agenda is that we will be hosting two keynote speakers because we could not decide on just one topic to highlight!

Our first keynote speaker will be Dr. Ralph Benedict. Dr. Benedict is Professor of Neurology at the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He is one of the most influential neuropsychologists in the field of MS and has made numerous important contributions, including development of the Minimal Assessment of Cognitive Functions in MS (MACFIMS) and evolving our understanding of the relationship between cognition and relapses. He will be speaking to us on the topic of both cognitive relapses and cognitive worsening that occurs independent of relapse activity.

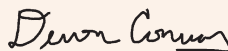
Our second keynote speaker is Dr. Michelle Ploughman, who will be crossing a border to join us from Canada! Dr. Ploughman is Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Dr. Ploughman is a physiotherapist and a neuroscientist and her research is focused on how lifestyle habits, such as aerobic exercise, can influence recovery in the setting of neurological diseases such as stroke and MS. She will be speaking to us on the topic of neurorestoration and how recent developments can be integrated into clinical care.

A number of other intriguing talks will round out our morning session. Dr. Daniel Ontaneda will be speaking on the newest

updates to the McDonald Criteria and how features such as the central vein sign have been incorporated into the criteria. Dr. Marisa McGinley will speak on the challenges of access to care that many persons with MS face and how we can overcome these challenges. Finally, Dr. Robert Fox will be presenting on Phase 3 data for Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) inhibitors, including for the HERCULES study of tolebrutinib in nonrelapsing secondary progressive MS.

Our always-popular rehabilitation track will feature several talks centered on ways to address bothersome symptoms, including a talk on optic neuritis rehabilitation by Alyssa DeCarlo and an approach to central dizziness by Kaitlin Sparks. In our Clinical/Research track, Dr. Jeffrey Cohen will speak about chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy in MS and Dr. Alise Carlson will present on management of women's health in neuroimmunological disorders.

A number of other engaging talks are also planned for this year's symposium, which we believe you will find practical and educational. The program will be offered both for in-person virtual attendance. We look forward to seeing you for another stimulating Mellen Center Update!



Best Regards,  
**Devon Conway, MD, MS**  
Symposium Director

## Objectives

At the completion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

- Describe updates in multiple sclerosis disease-modifying therapies, including BTK inhibitors and CAR-T therapy.
- Explain the 2024 updates to the McDonald Criteria and the new role of imaging in the diagnosis of MS.
- Describe the latest approaches to and complexities of neurorestoration for MS patients, including for optic neuritis, dysarthria/dysphagia, and central dizziness/vestibular dysfunction.
- Identify methods for improving access to care for patients with multiple sclerosis.
- Describe the mechanisms that contribute to cognitive disability in patients with MS, including cognitive relapses and PIRA.
- Summarize recent updates in the treatment of MOGAD in adults and children.
- Discuss best practices for addressing women's health in neuroimmunological disorders.

- Outline strategies for managing topics such as mood disorders and driving safety in patients with MS.

## Target Audience

This update is intended for health care practitioners engaged in the care of patients with MS and related disorders. We will cover a broad range of topics of value to health care professionals from a wide array of backgrounds including, physicians, nurses, physician assistants, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, psychologists and other health care practitioners who treat patients with MS.

## Faculty Disclosure Statement

The Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education has implemented a policy to comply with the current Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education Standards for Integrity and Independence requiring mitigation of all faculty conflicts of interest. Faculty declaring a relevant financial relationship will be identified in the activity syllabus.

**Register Online: [www.ccfme.org/MS](http://www.ccfme.org/MS)**

## Faculty

### Guest Faculty

**Ralph HB Benedict, PhD, ABPP-CN**  
SUNY Distinguished Professor Neurology, Psychiatry  
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
UBMD Physicians Group

**Michelle Ploughman BScPT, MSc, PhD**  
Professor, BioMedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Canada Research Chair (Tier II): Rehabilitation,  
Neuroplasticity and Brain Recovery

## Cleveland Clinic Faculty

### Symposium Director

**Devon Conway, MD, MS**  
Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis

### Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis

**Justin Abbateamarco, MD**  
**Aaron Abrams, MD**  
**Moein Amin, MD**  
**Danielle Brown, MA CCC-SLP**  
**Alise Carlson, MD, MSc**  
**Rebecca Cebull, APRN, CNP**  
**Jeffrey Cohen, MD**  
**Alyssa DeCarlo, MS, OTR/L, MSCS**  
**Robert Fox, MD**  
**Zarmina Javed, MBBS**  
**Brianne Markley, PhD**  
**Marisa McGinley, DO**  
**Daniel Ontaneda, MD, PhD**  
**Jennifer Sedlak, APRN, CNP**  
**Kaitlin Sparks, PT, DPT, NCS**  
**Amy Sullivan, PsyD, ABPP**  
**Karlo Toljan, MD**  
**Grace Tworek, PsyD**  
**Timothy Verdouw, BS, OTR/L**

### Center for Adult Behavioral Health

**Raghid Charara, MD**

### Planning Committee

**Justin Abbateamarco, MD**  
**Kathryn Ball, MHA**  
**Robert Bermel, MD**  
**Danielle Brown, MA CCC-SLP**  
**Alise Carlson, MD**  
**Jeffrey Cohen, MD**  
**Alyssa DeCarlo, MS, OTR/L, MSCS**  
**Julia O'Mahony, PhD**  
**Daniel Ontaneda, MD, PhD**  
**Janet Perryman, MBA**  
**Mary Rensel, MD**  
**Jennifer Sedlak, APRN, CNP**  
**Kaitlin Sparks, PT, DPT, NCS**  
**Amy Sullivan, PsyD, ABPP**  
**Hilary Young, PA-C**

## Agenda

**Friday, June 20, 2025 • Eastern Time**

*Time for questions and answers are included in each presentation.*

- 7:30 am **Registration/Continental Breakfast/Exhibits**
- 8:20 am **Welcome** – *Devon Conway*
- 8:30 am **Keynote: Cognitive Worsening in MS: Cognitive Relapses and PIRA** – *Ralph Benedict*
- 9:15 am **Keynote: Neurorestoration in MS: Where We Stand**  
*Michelle Ploughman*
- 10:00 am **Updates to the McDonald Criteria: The 2024 Revisions**  
*Daniel Ontaneda and Karlo Toljan*
- 10:40 am Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 11:00 am **Improving Access to Care in Multiple Sclerosis**  
*Marisa McGinley*
- 11:30 am **BTK Update: What we are Learning from Phase 3 Data**  
*Robert Fox*
- 12:00 pm Lunch Buffet

### Breakout Session A: MS Clinical/Research

*Moderator: Devon Conway*

- 1:00 pm **Managing Mood Disorders in MS** – *Amy Sullivan, Grace Tworek, Brianne Markley, Raghid Charara*
- 1:30 pm **Emerging Treatment Paradigms for MOGAD in Adults and Children** – *Justin Abbateamarco and Aaron Abrams*
- 2:00 pm **Women's Health in Neuroimmunological Disorders**  
*Alise Carlson*
- 2:20 pm Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 2:40 pm **Practical Case Studies – Use of Imaging in the New Diagnostic Criteria** – *Moein Amin*
- 3:00 pm **Applications of CAR-T in Multiple Sclerosis**  
*Jeffrey Cohen and Zarmina Javed*
- 3:30 pm **Driving Safety in Multiple Sclerosis – How to Manage a Difficult Topic – Roundtable Discussion:** *Rebecca Cebull, Jennifer Sedlak, and Timothy Verdouw*

### Breakout Session B: MS Rehabilitation

*Moderator: Alyssa DeCarlo*

- 1:00 pm **Optic Neuritis Rehabilitation for the MS Patient**  
*Alyssa DeCarlo*
- 1:40 pm **Approaching Dysarthria/Dysphagia Challenges in MS**  
*Danielle Brown*
- 2:20 pm Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 2:40 pm **Central Dizziness/Vestibular Based Rehab Support**  
*Kaitlin Sparks*
- 3:20 pm **The Complex Clinical Picture of MS in Rehab: A Case Report** – *Alyssa DeCarlo, Danielle Brown and Kaitlin Sparks*
- 4:00 pm **Adjourn all sessions & Sponsored Reception**

**Register Online: [www.cfcme.org/MS](http://www.cfcme.org/MS)**

## Accreditation

In support of improving patient care, Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

## Credit Designation

- **American Medical Association (AMA)**

Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the live activity.

Participants claiming CME credit from this live activity may submit the credit hours to the American Osteopathic Association for Category 2 credit.

- **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**

Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 ANCC contact hours.

- **American Academy of PAs (AAPA)**

Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 6 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

- **Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) Credit**

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 6 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.

- **American Psychological Association (APA) CE Credits**

American Psychological Association (APA) Continuing Education (CE) credits for psychologists are provided through the co-sponsorship of the American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Continuing Education in Psychology (CEP). The APA CEP Office maintains responsibility for the content of the programs.

- **Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA)**

Credit is being applied for with the Ohio Physical Therapy Association – Approval is pending.

- **OT section of the Ohio OTPTAT Board**

Credit is being applied for with the OT section of the Ohio OTPTAT Board – Approval is pending.

- **Speech Language-Pathology**

This activity has been approved by the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professionals Board for 6 clock hours of continuing education for the 2025–2026 practice biennium.

- **Certificate of Participation**

A certificate of participation will be provided to other health care professionals for requesting credits in accordance with their professional boards and/or associations.

## Location

InterContinental Hotel & Conference Center  
9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
Phone: 216.707.4100 or 877.707.8999

## Parking

Complimentary parking is available in the Visitor's Parking Garage #2 located off 100th and Carnegie. From the garage, take the 3rd floor skyway to the hotel. Please bring your parking ticket to the conference registration desk for validation. Valet parking is available at the hotel at your own cost of \$18.00 per car for meeting attendance. Visit [www.clevelandclinic.org](http://www.clevelandclinic.org) for maps and directions.

## Faculty Presentations

Faculty presentation slides will be available online in PDF format.

## Information

For further information about this activity, contact Liz Eaton at Local: 216.385.9076; Email: [eatonl3@ccf.org](mailto:eatonl3@ccf.org)

## Americans with Disabilities Act

The Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education fully intends to comply with the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need assistance, please notify Liz Eaton at 216.445.5431 at least two weeks prior to the activity.

## Registration and Cancellation Information

Register Online: [www.ccfcmec.org/MS](http://www.ccfcmec.org/MS)

Registration Fee: \$50

**In-person registration includes:** online syllabus, continental breakfast, breaks and buffet lunch; **Virtual registration includes:** virtual attendance and online syllabus.

Register at [www.ccfcmec.org/MS](http://www.ccfcmec.org/MS). Registration deadline is **5:00 pm (EST), Monday, June 16, 2025**. A request for a refund must be received in writing by June 9, 2025. No refunds will be given after June 9, 2025. A \$25 cancellation fee will be deducted from the refund for all cancellations.



For questions about registration, please call 216.448.8710 or email [cmeregistration@ccf.org](mailto:cmeregistration@ccf.org).

Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education reserves the right to cancel or postpone activity in our sole discretion. In the unlikely event that this occurs, any registration fee(s) paid will be refunded. Be advised that Cleveland Clinic is not responsible for related costs including airline tickets, hotel costs, or any similar fee penalties incurred as a result of any trip cancellations or changes.

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Cleveland, OH 44195



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