

Program MS Research Days 2026

Wednesday May 20 th	
09:00 – 10:00	Registration and coffee
10:00 – 10:15	Opening
10:15 – 11:00	Keynote lecture prof.dr. Tom van Meerten <i>CD19-Directed CAR T-Cell Therapy: Established Efficacy in Lymphoma and Emerging Promise in Multiple Sclerosis</i> <i>Moderator Dr. Jan Meilof</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Scientific presentations I – Immune mechanisms: trafficking to & within the brain <i>Moderators: Dr. Susanne Kooistra & Dr. Sam Vanherle</i> - I-1. Perivascular lymphocyte compartmentalization contributes to Broad Rim Lesions in Multiple Sclerosis – <i>Lukas Lütje, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience</i> - I-2. Single-cell transcriptomic atlas of the human MS brain reveals EBV-specific CD8+ T cells – <i>Jasper Rip, Erasmus MC</i> - I-3. Increased immune cell recruitment at the brain borders in advanced MS – <i>Cheng-Chih Hsiao, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience</i> - I-4. Using the extremes in MS susceptibility to expose the functionally altered B and T cells in people with optic neuritis – <i>Ana Marques, Erasmus MC</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (vegetarian)
13:00 – 15:00	Scientific presentations II – Tracking MS activity: molecular & imaging markers <i>Moderators: Dr. Menno Schoonheim & Dr. Lynn van Olst</i> - II-1. Deciphering white matter lesion evolution in multiple sclerosis through spatially resolved microglia states – <i>Amber Woudstra, UMC Groningen</i> - II-2. Lesion and thalamus volume as predictors of clinical, cognitive and serum outcomes in early MS – <i>Amber van der Kruit, Amsterdam UMC</i> - II-3. Soluble Protein Markers of Remyelination in Multiple Sclerosis – <i>Alida Chen, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience</i> - II-4. Cerebrospinal fluid oligoclonal bands are not a useful biomarker for predicting early reactivation after discontinuation of first-line multiple sclerosis therapies – <i>Koen van Tulder, Erasmus MC</i> - II-5. From Signal to Sheath: Modulating GPCRs to Restore Functional Myelination – <i>Melissa Schepers, UHasselt/Maastricht University</i> - II-6. Dissecting determinants for myelin blistering and dynamics in the Multiple Sclerosis brain – <i>Niels Meijns, Amsterdam UMC</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:30	Thesis award & presentation
16:30 – 17:15	Keynote lecture prof.dr. Mikael Simons <i>Myelin pathology & neuroinflammation in the CNS</i> <i>Moderator Prof.dr. Bart Eggen</i>
17:30 – 19:00	A scientific stroll through Groningen – a guided city walk
19:00 – 21:00	Diner (vegetarian)

Thursday May 21 st	
08:15 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 10:00	Workshop 'Pitch Perfect' on communicating to broad (lay) audiences Taught by Marloes Ten Kate (<i>Take the Stage</i>) <i>Only with additional registration</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Short break
10:15 – 11:30	Scientific presentations III – On the scale: demyelination & remyelination <i>Moderators: Dr. Gijs Kooij & Dr. Midas Anijs</i> - III-1. Inflammatory demyelinating diseases of the CNS through a spatial transcriptomics lens – <i>Janneke Bosma, UMC Groningen</i> - III-2. ELOVL6 deficiency reshapes oligodendrocyte lipid metabolism, boosting their differentiation and central nervous system repair – <i>Laura Bolkaerts, UHasselt</i> - III-3. Elucidating the molecular underpinnings of failing remyelination in multiple sclerosis – <i>Floor Koks, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience</i> - III-4. Loss of CD36 disrupts OPC differentiation and remyelination in the brain via pro-inflammatory eicosanoid signaling – <i>Fleur Mingneau, UHasselt</i> - III-5. Clocking in foamy microglia to curb and reverse inflammatory demyelination – <i>Melanie Loix, UHasselt</i>
11:45 – 12:45	Poster walks A through F
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch (vegetarian)
13:30 – 14:45	Scientific presentations IV – Connecting the dots in MS: genes, myelin, connectivity & therapy <i>Moderators: Dr. Jeroen Bogie & Romy Klein Kranenbarg</i> - IV-1. Identification and functional fine-mapping of genetic variants in Multiple Sclerosis using the survey of regulatory elements – <i>Peer Wubbolts, UMC Groningen</i> - IV-2. Degenerative myelin disrupts sleep oscillations in mice and MS – <i>Mohit Dubey, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience</i> - IV-3. The role of network connectivity and transcriptomic vulnerability in shaping grey matter atrophy in multiple sclerosis – <i>Mar Barrantes-Cepas, Amsterdam UMC</i> - IV-4. Reduced Voluntary Muscle Drive in Multiple Sclerosis Is Associated with Altered Brain Network Connectivity – <i>Nikki Dreijer, UMC Groningen</i> - IV-5. Follow-Up Results of the DOT-MS Trial: Discontinuation of First-Line Disease-Modifying Therapy in Stable Multiple Sclerosis – <i>Linde Holwerda, Amsterdam UMC</i>
14:45 – 15:30	Keynote lecture prof.dr. Ragnhildur Thóra Káradóttir <i>Regenerative neural plasticity: neuroprotection and remyelination</i> <i>Moderator Dr. Wia Baron</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Awards & Closure

Poster walks overview

Poster Walk A		
<i>Moderators: Dr. Oliver Gerlach (Zuyderland MC) and Dr. Martijn Wijburg (Amsterdam UMC)</i>		
A1	Daan de Jong	Preliminary findings on real-world use of smartphone applications for monitoring persons with multiple sclerosis: the Connect-MS
A2	Marit Ruitenber	Unravelling cognitive challenges in women with multiple sclerosis in different menopausal stages
A3	Ellis Donders	Optimizing Myelin Water Imaging in Multiple Sclerosis
A4	Michiel Buijze	Frequent early cognitive impairment in both pediatric MS and MOGAD
A5	Lis van den Boogaard	Predicting clinical progression in patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis using the T1w/FLAIR-ratio as a myelin proxy
A6	Ellis Donders	Contrast Enhancing Lesions Have Lower Myelin Water Fraction Than NonEnhancing Lesions in MS
Poster Walk B		
<i>Moderators: Prof.dr. Niels Hellings (UHasselt) and Dr. Sezgi Kaçar (Amsterdam UMC)</i>		
B1	Alwin Kamermans	Retinal involvement in the pathophysiology of nystagmus in multiple sclerosis
B2	Romy Klein Kranenbarg	Serum neurofilament light chain predicts early subsequent disability progression in progressive MS
B3	Maartje Alting	Semi-automated segmentation of 2D T1-defined black holes on 3D T1-weighted gradient-echo images in multiple sclerosis
B4	Anna-Victoria de Keersmacker	Blood-Based Biomarkers of Remyelination and Repair
B5	Laura Hogenboom	Predictors of B-cell repopulation in ocrelizumab treated patients: Insights from two large cohorts
B6	Bo Batens	The impact of a flavonoid-rich diet on the microbiome and inflammatory profile in multiple sclerosis
B7	Anna-Victoria de Keersmacker	Costs, Care, and Consequences: The Burden of Progressive MS in Flanders, Belgium
B8	Tom van der Wel	Genetic and pharmacological inactivation of glycerophosphodiesterase GDE4 promotes oligodendrocyte differentiation and remyelination
Poster Walk C		
<i>Moderators: Dr. Arianne Gravesteijn (Amsterdam UMC) and Dr. Stephanie Knippenberg (Zuyderland MC)</i>		
C1	Pien Schipper	SOMS-PRO: An observational cohort to characterize Progression Independent of Relapse Activity in Multiple Sclerosis
C2	Jip Aarts	Don't be late! A Process Evaluation of a Preventive Lifestyle Intervention for People with MS: Participant Experiences and Implementation Insights
C3	Birgit Helmlinger	Sleep and Fatigue: Related Concepts, Different Thalamic Involvement in People with Multiple Sclerosis
C4	Koen van Tulder	Mapping progression independent of relapse and MRI activity throughout the course of multiple sclerosis
C5	Maarten Wilms	Analysis of performance fatigability in multiple sclerosis using a foot-tapping task
C6	Lonneke Bos	Improving skull segmentation in MS using a pseudo-T2w MRI

Poster Walk D		
<i>Moderators: Dr. Cheng-Chih Hsiao (NIN-KNAW) and Dr. Carla Rodriguez-Mogeda (Amsterdam UMC)</i>		
D1	Melanie Mueller	A tight balance: FAS and MDR-1 as regulators of B-cell survival in the multiple sclerosis brain
D2	Freddy Leenders	Supporting the oligodendrocyte-neuron coupling: pulling back the curtain on downstream PDE4D signalling
D3	Eva Geerts	Implementing the 4i method to characterize astrocyte markers in white matter multiple sclerosis lesions
D4	Juliët van Iersel	Spatial Transcriptomics Identifies Distinct Glial Signatures in White and Grey Matter Lesions in Multiple Sclerosis and Reveals Fixation-Associated Effects
D5	Jasper Rip	Refined single-cell profiling captures a new CD4+ cytotoxic T-cell precursor with therapeutic potential in multiple sclerosis
D6	Raanya De Vos	ER Acetylation Machinery Dysregulation and MBP Citrullination in Early Multiple Sclerosis: Evidence Supporting an Inside-Out Mechanism
Poster Walk E		
<i>Moderators: Prof.dr. Bart Eggen (UMCG) and Dr. Anne-Marie van Dam (Amsterdam UMC)</i>		
E1	Jeen Engelenburg	Mapping autoantibodies in Multiple Sclerosis disease trajectories
E2	Iván de la Infanta Gutiérrez	Desmosterol improves myelin processing in phagocytic cells
E3	Tamara Hageman	Using patient and sibling-derived iPSCs to investigate intrinsic astrocyte features that contribute to remyelination failure in multiple sclerosis
E4	Antonio Luchicchi	Label-Free Myelin Fingerprinting: An Adult Human Post-Mortem Brain Slice Platform via Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Spectroscopy
E5	Zoë Donders	Visual evoked potentials as a biomarker of demyelination and remyelination in a chronic EAE model
E6	Lisanne van de Bovekamp	CXCL12 stimulates remyelination in MS-like lesions in mouse and human post-mortem organotypic slice cultures
Poster Walk F		
<i>Moderators: Fleur Mingneau (UHasselt) and Lukas Lütje (NIN-KNAW)</i>		
F1	Marvin van Luijn	Integrating HLA-based risk with single-cell profiling to discriminate blood CD8+ T cells that differently respond to EBV in MS
F2	Tiantong Zhao	Modeling inflammation of choroid plexus in multiple sclerosis using human iPSC-derived organoids
F3	Mohit Dubey	Cellular mechanisms of complement-driven pathology in progressive MS
F4	Daisy van Egmond	Oxylipin Production by Foamy Macrophages in Multiple Sclerosis Lesions
F5	Marvin van Luijn	Uncovering the aberrant B-cell response against Epstein-Barr virus in people with multiple sclerosis
F6	Tim Vanmierlo	Deciphering Th17.1 cell complexity through multiomics analysis in multiple sclerosis