

Mellen Center Update in Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Friday, June 26, 2026

An update in understanding and managing MS

InterContinental Hotel &
Conference Center
Cleveland, OH & Live Stream

www.ccfcmc.org/MS

About the Symposium

Welcome to the 2026 Mellen Center Update in Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This marks our 18th annual symposium, and we are thrilled to present a robust, forward-looking agenda that reflects the latest advances in MS research, clinical care, and rehabilitation.

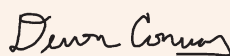
This comprehensive CME symposium brings together leading experts in multiple sclerosis (MS) and related neuroimmunologic disorders to provide timely updates on advances in diagnosis, treatment, and interdisciplinary care. Through a full day of lectures and focused breakout tracks, participants will explore emerging therapies, mechanisms of disease progression, rehabilitation strategies, and practical approaches to complex clinical challenges.

The program opens with a keynote presentation by Jiwon Oh, MD, PhD, Medical Director, Barlo Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Program, St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto, highlighting the evolving role of Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors in multiple sclerosis. This session will review the scientific rationale for BTK inhibition, emerging clinical evidence, and the potential implications of these therapies for MS disease management, setting the stage for the day's in-depth discussions.

Additional sessions will address new developments in MS rehabilitation, mechanisms of MS progression, hormonal influences, autoimmune encephalitis, neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder, vaccination considerations, infection risk associated with disease-modifying therapies, and the expanding role of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Case-based discussions and expert-led presentations will emphasize evidence-based, practical strategies that can be applied directly to patient care.

Designed for neurologists, advanced practice providers, nurses, and rehabilitation specialists, this symposium emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration and real-world application to enhance clinical decision-making and improve outcomes for individuals living with multiple sclerosis.

Best Regards,



Devon Conway, MD, MS
Symposium Director

Objectives

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

- Describe updates in the use of multiple sclerosis disease-modifying therapies such as BTK inhibitors and how to manage infection risks.
- Summarize recent updates in the treatment of Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder and autoimmune encephalitis.
- Describe the latest approaches and models of rehabilitation for MS patients.
- Describe the mechanisms that contribute to MS disability progression and the influence of hormones on the disease.
- Discuss interdisciplinary strategies for managing fatigue, heat intolerance, and spasticity in MS patients.
- Describe the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in medicine, highlighting its impact on diagnosis, treatment, and patient outcomes.
- Outline the considerations in topics such as wheelchair use, targeted psychological care and vaccinations for 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.

Faculty

Guest Faculty

Jiwon Oh, MD, PhD

Medical Director, Barlo Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Program
St. Michael's Hospital
University of Toronto

Cleveland Clinic Faculty

Symposium Director

Devon Conway, MD, MS

Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis

Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis

Justin Abbatemarco, MD

Saira Afzal, MD

Moein Amin, MD, MS

Francois Bethoux, MD

Danielle Brown, MA, CCC-SLP

Rachel Butler, CNP

Alise Carlson, MD, MSc

Alyssa DeCarlo, MS, OTR/L, MSCS, CSRS, LSVT

Robert Fox, MD

Katherine Havard Coiro, MD

Kellie Keim, PT, DPT

Brianne Markley, PhD

Kaitlyn Palmer, MD

Amjad Samara, MD

Jennifer Sedlak, APRN, CNP

Brent Sokola, PharmD, MS, BCPS

Kaitlin Sparks, PT, DPT, NCS

Amy Sullivan, PsyD, ABPP

Grace Tworek, PsyD

Hilary Young, PA-C

Planning Committee

Justin Abbatemarco, MD

Robert Bermel, MD

Danielle Brown, MA, CCC-SLP

Alyssa DeCarlo, MS, OTR/L, MSCS, CSRS, LSVT

Kimberly DiMauro, DO

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Robert Fox, MD

Shauna Gales, PA-C

Amy Kunchok, MD

Brianne Markley, PhD

Marisa McGinley, DO

Daniel Ontaneda, MD, PhD

Jennifer Sedlak, APRN, CNP

Malory Weber, BS

Agenda

Friday, June 26, 2026 • 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: The Role of BTK Inhibitors in Multiple Sclerosis**
Jiwon Oh
- 9:20 am **New Developments in Multiple Sclerosis Rehabilitation**
Francois Bethoux
- 10:00 am **Practical Approach to Autoimmune Encephalitis**
Justin Abbatemarco and Saira Afzal
- 10:40 am Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 11:00 am **Mechanisms of MS Progression**
Devon Conway and Amjad Samara
- 11:30 am **Hormonal Aspects of Multiple Sclerosis**
Alise Carlson and Katherine Havard Coiro
- 12:00 pm Lunch Buffet

Breakout Session A: MS Clinical/Research

Moderator: Devon Conway

- 1:00 pm **A Review of Treatment Options for Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder** – Justin Abbatemarco and Kaitlyn Palmer
- 1:30 pm **Special Populations in Multiple Sclerosis: A Psychological Perspective** – Brianne Markley, Grace Tworek and Amy Sullivan
- 2:00 pm **Vaccination in Multiple Sclerosis** – Brent Sokola
- 2:20 pm Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 2:40 pm **An Update on AI in Healthcare and MS** – Moein Amin
- 3:00 pm **Bugs and Drugs – Infection Risk with Disease-Modifying Therapy** – Robert Fox
- 3:30 pm **Case Studies – Managing Disease-Modifying Therapy in the Setting of Infections** – Rachel Butler, Jennifer Sedlak and Hilary Young

Breakout Session B: MS Rehabilitation

Moderator: Alyssa DeCarlo

- 1:00 pm **Wheels for Warriors: Wheelchair Considerations for the MS Patient** – Alyssa DeCarlo
- 1:40 pm **Cognitive Pacing and Fatigue** – Danielle Brown
- 2:20 pm Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 2:40 pm **The Dentist Model: How to Assess and Develop Plans of Care to Meet the Needs of Neuro-Degenerative Diseases**
Kaitlin Sparks and Kellie Keim
- 3:20 pm **Fatigue, Heat Intolerance, and Spasticity Management in MS from the Interdisciplinary Approach** – Alyssa DeCarlo, Danielle Brown, Kellie Keim, and Kaitlin Sparks
- 4:00 pm **Adjourn all sessions**

Register Online: www.ccfcmc.org/MS

General Information

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 Psychological Association (OPA)**
OPA-MCE Provider – Approved for 6 credits.

- **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 \$20.00 per car for meeting attendance. Visit 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

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 216.385.9076 at least two weeks prior to the activity.

Registration and Cancellation Information

Register Online: www.ccfcmc.org/MS

Registration Fee: \$100

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

Register at www.ccfcmc.org/MS. Registration deadline is **5:00 pm (EST), Monday, June 22, 2026**. A request for a refund must be received in writing by June 19, 2026. No refunds will be given after June 19, 2026. 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.

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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The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Neurological Institute, JN5-424
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Cleveland, OH 44195



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