

**20th & 21st March 2024 – Halifax Hall, Sheffield**

## **Day 1 - Wednesday, 20th March 2024**

**09:30 Registration opens**

**09:50 Introduction and welcome**

Dr Channa Hewamadduma, consultant neurologist and honorary senior lecturer, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

- Rationale for education
- What we hope to achieve through this upskill
- Standardise practice and reduce variance

**Session 1 chair:** Dr Channa Hewamadduma

**10:00 Pathophysiology of myasthenia gravis and therapeutic targets**

Prof Isabel Leite, associate professor and consultant neurologist, University of Oxford

- Pathophysiology of MG according to antibody status - AChR-Ab or MuSK-Ab positive, and their impact in NMJ structure over time
- The key molecules and cells relevant to standard and current therapies in MG
- Relevant targets for immunotherapies used in recent and ongoing phase III clinical trials for MG

**11:00 Ocular presentations of myasthenia**

Dr Sithara Ramdas, consultant paediatric neurologist, University of Oxford

- Eliciting key clinical signs
- Pathology at ocular NMJ
- Pertinent differential diagnoses; CMS, MG & others
- Principles of management

**12:00 Lunch & networking**

**Session 2 chair:** Prof Isabel Leite

**13:00 Diagnostic and key principles of management - generalised myasthenia gravis**

Dr Maria Farrugia, consultant neurologist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

- Seropositive
- Seronegative
- MuSK MG



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**14:00 Interactive case discussions**

Dr Maria Farrugia

Prof Isabel Leite

Prof Saiju Jacob, consultant neurologist, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

**15:20 Refreshments**

**15:40 Patient perspective from a clinical view**

Chair: Dr Channa Hewamadduma

Andrew Stephenson, expert patient

**16:40 Reflections & final comments**

Dr Channa Hewamadduma

Prof Saiju Jacob

Prof Isabel Leite

Dr Maria Farrugia

**19:00 Pre dinner drinks**

**19:30 Informal dinner**

**21:00 Close of day 1**

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## Day 2 - Thursday, 21st March 2024

**08:15 Registration**

**Session 3 chair:** Dr Channa Hewamadduma

**08:30 Challenging cases**

Dr Maria Farrugia  
Prof Isabel Leite  
Prof Saiju Jacob

**10:00 Refreshments**

**Session 4 chair:** Dr Maria Farrugia

**10:20 Rituximab/B-cell targeting therapies in myasthenia gravis**

Dr John McConville, consultant neurologist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

- Role of B cells in the pathophysiology of MG
- CD19 targeted therapies - Rituximab in MG/ why not fully effective
- Newer B-cell therapies

**11:00 Novel therapies in myasthenia gravis: complement inhibitors**

Dr Channa Hewamadduma

- Pathophysiology of complement in MG
- Complement inhibition as a novel therapeutic approach - review of evidence
- How to prepare your clinic for C5 inhibitors
- Challenges in C5 use

**11:30 Novel therapies: FcRn inhibitors**

Dr Jennifer Spillane, consultant neurologist, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust & University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

- FcRn blockers as a novel therapeutic approach
- Is your clinic prepared for FcRn inhibitors
- Challenges in FcRn use

**12:00 Lunch**

**Session 5 chair:** Prof Saiju Jacob

**13:00 Myasthenia gravis in pregnancy**

Dr Fiona Norwood, consultant neurologist, King's College London NHS Foundation Trust -

**Virtual**

- Challenges in MG management in pregnancy
- Peripartum complications/advice
- Myasthenia in pregnancy: UK best practice guideline

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**13:30 Myasthenia gravis in adolescence/transition**

Dr Sithara Ramdas

- Natural history of childhood MG
- Management challenges in young people with MG
- How best to support
- Especially patients with sero -ve , neurophysiology -ve MG

**14:00 Advising patients with MG - helping manage day to day life**

Caroline Carmichael, myasthenia gravis nurse specialist, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

- Supporting MG patients
- What specific aspects of MG specialist nurse is unique
- What advice will you give if someone is planning MG SpN service

**14:30 Refreshments**

**Session 6 chairs:** Prof Isabel Leite and Dr Maria Farrugia

**15:00 Thymus gland and myasthenia gravis**

Introduction and thymic pathology and neurology

Prof Isabel Leite

Surgical management of thymus

Mr Alan Kirk, consultant thoracic surgeon, Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Glasgow

Thymic oncology

Dr David Gilligan, medical oncologist, Cambridge University Hospitals

Discussion: Prof Leite, Mr Kirk and Dr Gilligan - Role of neurologist in the thymic MDT

**16:15 Final remarks**

Dr Channa Hewamadduma

**16:30 Meeting close & depart**