

**Day 1 – Thursday, 18th June 2026**

Each case will be discussed as a group, followed by a presentation from the chair around the topic and the discussion generated.

**09:30 Registration and refreshments**

**09:45 Welcome**

Dr Wallace Brownlee, consultant neurologist, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & honorary academic director, MS Academy

**10:00 Pathophysiology (2) - progressive MS**

Dr Wallace Brownlee

**A 41 year old man with MS has been on treatment with ocrelizumab for the last 5 years has worsening spastic paraparesis and gait despite having no relapses or new activity on MRI since changing his treatment over from beta interferon. He wants to understand why this has happened and what can be done to stop his health declining.**

- What is the pathogenesis of progressive MS?
- Is MS a progressive condition from onset?
- What disease-modifying therapies are available for progressive MS?
- Can lifestyle change influence disease progression?
- What are the prospects for neuroprotection and remyelination in the future?

**12:00 Lunch**

**13:00 Symptom management (1) - focus on invisible symptoms**

Dr Victoria Wallace, consultant neurologist, St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Joanna Rutkowska-Wheeldon, occupational therapist, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board & Kelly Broome, clinical specialist physiotherapist, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**A 40 year old man with MS complains of disabling fatigue and is considering leaving work as a teacher due to physical and cognitive fatigue.**

- Occupational therapy perspective - assessment of MS fatigue, interventions to help fatigue
- Physiotherapy perspective - assessment of MS fatigue, interventions to help fatigue
- Medical perspective - pharmacological management of fatigue
- Multidisciplinary roundtable discussion

**A 31 year old woman with MS complains of pain and numbness in their legs, she works in a supermarket and is on her feet all day.**

- Types of pain in MS
- Occupational therapy perspective - assessment of pain, interventions to help address pain

## MS Advanced MasterClass 24 Module 1

18th & 19th June 2026 – Halifax Hall, Sheffield

- Physiotherapy perspective - assessment of pain, interventions to help address pain
- Medical perspective - pharmacological management of pain
- Multidisciplinary roundtable discussion

**15:00 Refreshment break**

**15:30 Disease-modifying therapies (1) - MDT meeting**

Dr James Varley, consultant neurologist, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust & Stavroula Charisi, MS highly specialist pharmacist, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

**A 59 year old woman on ofatumumab is diagnosed with high-grade HER2-positive breast cancer with involvement of axillary lymph nodes. She is scheduled to start neo-adjuvant chemotherapy next week, followed by surgery and further chemotherapy treatment.**

- Do DMTs increase the risk of cancer?
- What are the considerations for DMT in patients with a history of cancer?

**A 39 year old man with ankylosing spondylitis is diagnosed with MS 12 months after starting treatment with adalimumab. His rheumatologist has stopped the adalimumab and he will start secukinumab next week.**

- Can MS be drug induced?
- What is the approach to MS treatment in people with autoimmune comorbidities?

**A 28 year old woman with RRMS is stable on treatment with ublituximab. She is thinking about starting a family next year and asks if she should stop her injections?**

- How should women taking anti-CD20 agents be counselled about family planning?
- Can women taking monoclonal antibodies breastfeed?

**A 34 year old woman is admitted with febrile neutropenia with a lymphocyte count of 0.1. She took her second course of ocrelizumab 9 weeks ago.**

- What is late-onset neutropenia?
- How should we manage patients with neutropenia during treatment with antiCD20 drugs?

**17:30 Career planning, project planning and networking**

Dr Wallace Brownlee & Ruth Stross, director of services and health professional lead, MS Trust & honorary academic director of nursing and allied health professionals, Neurology Academy

**18:30 Close**

**19:00 Pre-dinner drinks**

**19:30 Informal dinner**

**Day 2 – Friday, 19th June 2026**

**08:30 Registration**

**08:45 Feedback from the delegates – day 1**

Dr David Paling, consultant neurologist, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & honorary strategic director, MS Academy

**08:50 Symptom management (2) - focus on advanced MS**

Rhian O'Halloran, clinical specialist physiotherapist in MS, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Ruth Stross, & Anna Tucker, principal speech & language therapist, North Bristol NHS Trust

**A 48 year old man with aggressive MS (EDSS 8.5) is recovering following admission to hospital with aspiration pneumonia. He has lost 5kg of weight over the last 12-18 months because he is no longer able to feed himself and has difficulty swallowing. He has a very soft voice and a weak cough.**

- Nutrition and swallowing assessment and management in advanced MS
- What is eating and drinking with accepted risks (EDAR)?
- When and how to discuss PEG feeding?
- Should we assess respiratory function in people with advanced MS?

**10:50 Refreshments**

**11:15 Pathophysiology (1) - ageing**

Dr Floriana De Angelis, consultant neurologist, Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Daisy Cam, lead MS specialist nurse, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**A 72 year old woman with MS attends for her annual review appointment. Her MS has generally been stable over the last year (EDSS 6.0) and she continues on weekly injections of Avonex first started in 2002. She has a number of other health problems including depression, osteoporosis and hypertension.**

- What is the impact of ageing on MS disease course?
- How do comorbidities influence MS disease course?
- Do DMTs work in older people with MS?
- At what age should people stop taking DMTs?
- What healthcare maintenance should MS teams focus on in older people with MS?

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:00 Neuroradiology**

Dr David Paling & Dr Andrew Martin, consultant neuroradiologist, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

## **MS Advanced MasterClass 24 Module 1**

**18th & 19th June 2026 – Halifax Hall, Sheffield**

### **A 27 year old woman presents with left optic neuritis.**

- How should MRI be used to establish a diagnosis of MS?
- How can MRI help with differential diagnosis of suspected MS?

### **A 34 year old woman with MS is starting treatment with ofatumumab. She asks when her next MRI will be?**

- How should MRI be used to monitor response to treatment?
- When should a re-baseline MRI scan be done?
- Do all patients need gadolinium for routine follow-up scans?
- Does she need a spinal cord MRI?
- Should a single new lesion prompt a change in her treatment?

### **A 44 year old man on treatment with natalizumab has a new juxtacortical lesion on a routine MRI scan. The neuroradiologist is concerned about PML.**

- What is the risk of PML with MS DMTs
- How can MRI be used to identify sub-clinical PML?
- What is the initial approach to assessment and management of patients with possible PML?

#### **16:00 Mentorship & project**

Dr David Paling

#### **16:30 Final remarks and depart**

Dr David Paling