



## Center Without Walls Program FORUM PANELISTS

MS Forum and Virtual Expo | Sunday, November 13, 2022

Fairmont Century Plaza

2:30 pm

and available via Zoom Webinar

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_w9CVFQ6JRBCurXqs8kHf-w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w9CVFQ6JRBCurXqs8kHf-w)

### **Lilyana Amezcua, M.D. – USC**



Dr. Amezcua is an Associate Professor of Neurology, fellowship program director and recently appointed the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Champion at the University of Southern California (USC), Keck School of Medicine. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from University of California Irvine in Irvine, California, her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, followed by neurology residency and clinical fellowship in neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis at USC. She received her Master of Science degree in clinical, biomedical, and translational science from USC, Preventive Medicine, under a Clinical Translational Science Institute NIH KL2 award. Her research is focus in racial and ethnic health disparities including modifiable (from non-modifiable genetic factors involved in disease severity and progression of MS. She has received numerous awards including induction into the Health Professionals Hall of Fame (2015) and National Health Care Champion.

### **Jack Antel, M.D. - McGill University**



Jack Antel is a clinical neurologist who coordinates the multiple sclerosis research and treatment program at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He is a Professor at McGill University where he has served as Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery. Prior to his work at McGill, he was a Professor of Neurology at the University of Chicago. He was Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada from January 2004-2007. From 2007-2015 he was the National Scientific Director of the endMS Research and Training Network supported by the MS Society of Canada. From 2004 to 2006 he served as President of the International Society of Neuroimmunology. He was president of ACTRIMS (American Committee for Research and Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis) from 2016-2019. From 2006-2019, he served as the Editor for the Americas of the Multiple Sclerosis Journal. His research interests include understanding the mechanisms of tissue injury and repair that account for the characteristic disease course of multiple sclerosis and how these can be therapeutically targeted. Dr. Antel was the recipient of the 2005 Dystel Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Academy of Neurology.

### **Rohit Bakshi, M.D. – Harvard**



Dr. Rohit Bakshi is the Jack, Sadie and David Breakstone Professor of Neurology and Radiology at Harvard Medical School. He is the Director of the Laboratory for Neuroimaging Research and a Senior Neurologist at the Brigham Multiple Sclerosis Center, Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Mass General Brigham. Dr. Bakshi focuses on the use of neuroimaging procedures, in particular, MRI, for the patient management and research investigation of MS. Over the years his team has studied the role of gray matter damage, brain and spinal cord atrophy, the link between blood biomarkers and MRI findings, and the role of meningeal damage in MS. In 2015, he began his appointment as Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Neuroimaging*. Dr. Bakshi has delivered more than 200 invited academic lectures and authored more than 250 peer-reviewed articles.

### **Peter Calabresi, M.D. – Johns Hopkins**



Peter A. Calabresi, MD is a Professor of Neurology, Neuroscience, and Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Director of the Division of Neuroimmunology and Neurological Infections and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Multiple Sclerosis Precision Medicine Center of Excellence. He attended Yale College and Brown Medical School, and trained in Neurology at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY and Neuroimmunology at the NIH in Bethesda, Md. Dr. Calabresi has been the principal investigator or scientific advisor on several global phase 2 and 3 clinical trials. He has designed and directed several clinical trials investigating combination drug therapies in MS. Dr. Calabresi also mentors trainees and oversees translational laboratory research projects. His laboratory studies how to stop the immune attack and arrest neurodegeneration, and also strategies to promote myelin repair.

Dr. Calabresi has served on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Neurology*, and the *Multiple Sclerosis Journal*. He served as Chair of a grant review committee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and was a standing member of the NIH Clinical Neuroimmunology and Brain Tumors Study Section. His specific laboratory research interest lies in understanding the mechanisms of T lymphocyte differentiation into effector memory T cells and how these T cells interface with glial cells in the brain to modulate remyelination. Dr. Calabresi has published over 400 research papers including numerous articles on imaging and the immunopathogenesis of MS. He was the recipient of a five-year NMSS Collaborative Center grant from the National MS Society to study endogenous remyelination in MS, and the Jacob Javits Neuroscience Investigator award from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Calabresi is a member of AOA, and was co-awarded the Barancik prize for innovation in MS research in 2015, and was elected to the American Association of Physicians in 2017.

### **David Hafler, M.D - Yale**



David A. Hafler, M.D. is the William S. and Lois Stiles Egerly Professor and Chairman Department of Neurology and Professor of Immunobiology, Yale School of Medicine, and is the Neurologist-in-Chief of the Yale-New Haven Hospital. He graduated magna cum laude in 1974 from Emory University with combined B.S. and M.Sc. degrees in biochemistry, and the University of Miami School of Medicine in 1978. He then completed his internship in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins followed by a neurology residency at Cornell Medical Center-New York Hospital in New York. Dr. Hafler was trained in immunology at the Rockefeller University and then at Harvard where he joined the faculty in 1984 and later became the Breakstone Professorship of Neurology at Harvard and was a founding Associated Member of the Broad Institute at MIT. In 2009 he moved to Yale as the Chair of the Department of Neurology. Dr. Hafler is a clinical scientist with a research interest in the mechanism of multiple sclerosis with over 400 publications in the field of MS, autoimmunity and immunology. He is a co-founder of the International MS Genetic Consortium a group that identified the genes causing MS. He has served as a member of the editorial boards for *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and is co-founder of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies and leads the NIH Autoimmunity Prevention Center Grant at Yale. He was a Jacob Javits Merit Award Recipient from the NIH and has won many awards including Dystel Prize for MS research from the American Academy of Neurology, the University of Miami Annual Distinguished Alumni Award, the Raymond Adams Prize from the American Neurologic Association, and was the 2016 Frontier Lecturer at the AAN. Dr. Hafler has been elected to membership in the Alpha Omega Society, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and the National Academy of Medicine.

**Adam Kaplin, M.D, Ph.D. – Johns Hopkins**



Dr. Adam Kaplin graduated magna cum laude from Yale University before receiving his medical degree and Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he was a Medical Science Training Program awardee. He went on to complete an internship in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and a residency in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he served as the chief resident of psychiatry. Now an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Kaplin focuses on the psychiatric complications of neurological diseases. He researches the immune-mediated mechanisms of depression and cognitive impairment in transverse myelitis, multiple sclerosis and related autoimmune neurologic disorders, and the role of cytokines in these processes. He is on the board of medical advisors to the Transverse Myelitis Association (TMA) and the Montel Williams MS Foundation. Dr. Kaplin is the inventor and co-developer of [www.mood247.com](http://www.mood247.com), an automated Web and SMS coordinated mood tracker and mobile electronic health diary."

**Ellen Mowry, M.D., M.C.R. – Johns Hopkins**



Dr. Ellen Mowry is Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. She completed her undergraduate degree in biology at Georgetown University, medical school at the University of Rochester, internship and neurology residency at the University of Pennsylvania, and a fellowship in multiple sclerosis and Master's degree in clinical research at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research focuses on environmental factors that influence the risk and prognosis of multiple sclerosis (MS) as well as on improving outcome measures for use in the clinic and in clinical trials. She is also Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI of several investigator-initiated randomized trials, including Vitamin D to Ameliorate Multiple Sclerosis (VIDAMS), intranasal insulin for cognitive impairment in MS, Altering the Timing or Amount of Calories in MS (ATAC-MS), and the TRaditional vs. Early Aggressive Therapy for MS (TREAT-MS) trials. Dr. Mowry also co-directs the Johns Hopkins MS Precision Medicine Center of Excellence and is Chief Medical Officer of Johns Hopkins inHealth.

**Nancy L. Sicotte, M.D. – Cedars-Sinai**



Nancy L. Sicotte, MD, FAAN serves as Chair and Professor of Neurology in the Department of Neurology at Cedars-Sinai. She holds the Women's Guild Distinguished Chair in Neurology and is the founding Director of the Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology Program. Dr. Sicotte graduated with honors from Brown University with a BS in Psychology. She earned her medical degree from University of California Irvine School of Medicine and completed an internship in internal medicine, residency in neurology and fellowship in neuroimaging at UCLA Medical Center. Since joining the department of neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in 2010, Dr. Sicotte has developed an integrated multiple sclerosis program that includes patient care, education and research. Her research focuses on the use of advanced structural and functional imaging to study MS disease progression including cognitive impairment and depression. She is a founding member of the North American Imaging in MS (NAIMS) Cooperative, which utilizes state of the art imaging approaches across multiple centers in the US and Canada to develop reliable imaging markers of disease progression in MS. She has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Department of Defense. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Science*, *Brain*, and *Neurology* and she serves as an ad hoc reviewer for top-tier journals. She serves as the Chair of the National Medical Advisory Committee of the National MS Society and is a recipient of several awards including Healthcare Champion and Inspiration Award of the National MS Society. She has been a member of the volunteer faculty at the Venice Family Clinic since 1998.

### ***Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D. - UCLA***



Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D. received her MD from Vanderbilt University, did neurology residency at the Univ. of Texas Southwestern, and MS fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Voskuhl is the Director of the MS Program, the Jack H. Skirball Chair in MS Research, and Professor of Neurology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Voskuhl was a recipient of the Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholar Award and was PI of two separate five-year MS Collaborative Center Awards from the National MS Society. She is an internationally recognized expert in MS, doing translational work from the bedside (clinical observations) to the bench (research) to the bedside (novel clinical trials). Dr. Voskuhl has led four novel clinical trials testing new treatments based on results from her laboratory. She received the UCLA Innovation Award in 2018, as well as the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) Excellence Award for Sex and Gender Aspects in Health Research in 2018, a global award spanning all areas of health research. Dr. Voskuhl was selected for the Kenneth P. Johnson Memorial Lecture Award for MS research by ACTRIMS in 2019. She serves on Advisory Boards for the U.S. Department of Defense MS Research Program and the German Neurocure Clusters of Excellence. Dr. Voskuhl's clinical work focuses on MS diagnosis and treatment management. Her laboratory is currently funded by the NIH to discover neuroprotective treatments targeting cells in the central nervous system to reduce disabilities in MS patients.

### ***Vijayshree Yadav, M.D. – Oregon Health Sciences***



Dr. Yadav is a MS Fellowship trained Board-Certified Neurologist and a Clinician-Scientist with joint appointments as a Professor of Neurology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and a Veterans Affairs Merit Grant Awardee at the Veterans Affairs Portland Health Care Services (VAPORHCS). She is the Director of the OHSU Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center, a Staff Neurologist at the VAPORHCS and an Assistant Director of Clinical Care at the MS Center of Excellence-West (MSCoE) at the VAPORHCS. Dr. Yadav holds Endowed Professorship by Tykeson Family Foundation in Wellness Research since 2015. Dr. Yadav also serves as the Fellowship Training Director of the Joint MS and Neuroimmunology program at OHSU and VAPORHCS. She also holds a Master's degree in Clinical Research. Her research includes examining the role of Vascular Disease Risk Factors on brain metabolism in people with MS using advanced brain imaging techniques. She is currently evaluating role of an oral antioxidant called Mitoquinone on fatigue in MS. She led a novel study evaluating role of low-fat diet in people with relapsing-remitting MS that showed significant improvement in fatigue. Her research has been funded by National Institute of Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, National MS Society, Private Foundations and Pharmaceutical Companies. Dr. Yadav's interest and research in Complementary and Alternative (CAM) therapies for MS has been recognized nationally and internationally. She has published several peer reviewed journal articles and regularly presents her research at national and international meetings.

***Emmanuelle L. Waubant, M.D., Ph.D. - UCSF***



Emmanuelle L. Waubant, MD, PhD, received her medical degree at the University of Lille, France. She then trained in France as well as at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in adult neurology, neuroimmunology and MS clinical research. She is currently Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at UCSF. She has served as the Race to Erase MS medical director since 2001. She also directs the Regional Pediatric MS Center at UCSF and is the secretary for the American Committee on Treatment and Research in MS. Dr. Waubant serves or has served on the clinical care, fellowship and research grant review committees of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and on the advisory board of the Society's Northern California Chapter. She is the Chair of the Clinical Trial Task Force of the International Pediatric MS Study Group. She is a member of the International Pediatric MS Study Group Steering Committee. She is ACTRIMS president-elect. She also directs several translational research projects and mentors medical students, fellows and junior faculty on various clinical, research and career development aspects in the field of MS and related diseases. In 2018, Dr. Waubant started an international consortium (international Women in MS) to foster a community of clinicians and scientists, and contribute to mentoring and blossoming of junior women in the field of MS. Dr. Waubant's specific interests include the translation of promising agents from the bench to bedside to advance patients' care, and risk factors for MS susceptibility and disease modification in pediatric and adult MS.

**Panelists with MS:**

***Nancy Davis (Founder of Race to Erase MS)***



Nancy Davis, one of five children, was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. In 1987 she moved to California and now resides in Los Angeles with her husband and children. She is an extremely dedicated philanthropist, jewelry and now clothing designer and author. Most importantly, she is a full-time mother who is devoted to her five children. Nancy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 33 in 1991. After being told by her doctors that she would be "lucky" to operate a remote control on her TV, she realized she was too young and too busy to let the disease stop her life in its tracks. She was determined to devote her time, relationships and resources to finding a cure. Nancy's hope, courage and strength continue to inspire her to maintain a vibrant quality of life despite this chronic disease, but most of all, she remains positive, continues to live her life to the fullest, and is tireless in her efforts to finding the cure for MS.

***Claudia Curry Hill (Moderator)***



Claudia Curry Hill was diagnosed with Primary Progressive MS over 30 years ago. An activist for women's health and the disabled, she is very active in founding and serving on Non-Profit and Community Boards and Committees, including the Race to Erase MS and the Colorado, Wyoming MS Society Government Relations Committee and is a spokesperson for Multiple Sclerosis. Claudia is married, the mother of three and the owner of CCH Connections, a non-profit and event consulting group in Colorado. She believes that exercise, a positive attitude and empowering yourself with all the information you can find to improve your quality of life.