Center Without Walls Program
FORUM PANELISTS

MS Forum and Expo |Saturday, October 21, 2023

Fairmont Century Plaza
10:00 am

Also available via Zoom Webinar
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o0A_BSFCRemG2iWFJchpPw

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 the University of California Irvine in Irvine, California, and 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 focused on 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.

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 phases 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, was co-awarded the Barancik Prize for Innovation in MS research in 2015, and was elected to the American Association of Physicians in 2017.

Charles R. G. Guttmann, M.D. – Harvard/Brigham & Women's Hospital

Dr. Guttmann is an Associate Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School, and the founding Director of the Center for Neurological Imaging, a multi-disciplinary laboratory at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Guttmann obtained his medical degree from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, followed by a post-graduate course in experimental medicine and biology at the same Institution. His research interests focus on the understanding, modeling, and monitoring of neurological diseases, such as multiple sclerosis (MS) by integrating imaging-derived biomarkers with clinical, genetic, immunological, and other biomarkers. Dr. Guttmann has studied MS for over 30 years and has published well over 100 original articles on this condition, ranging from MRI characterization and mathematical modeling of MS lesion evolution in humans to the development of an animal model to study MS-like lesions using timed-focused ultrasound opening of the blood-brain barrier in mice with experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE). Dr. Guttmann has also spearheaded the development of informatics infrastructures in support of large-scale neuroimaging discovery research, including an image-centered, multi-modality database and image analysis workflow management system, as well as - more recently - a virtual laboratory for collaborative neuroscience research. This has enabled multiple large-scale, cross-disciplinary studies addressing a variety of scientific questions, such as genetic determinants of brain atrophy in MS, association studies between risk factors such as smoking and the progression of disease in MS, as well as prospective longitudinal studies to understand the clinical evolution and pathogenesis of MS, as well as to generate predictive models for use in clinical disease management.

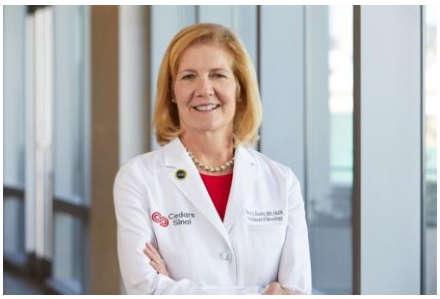
David Hafler, M.D - Yale

David A. Hafler, M.D. is the William S. and Lois Stiles Edgerly 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., - President Mira1a Pharmaceutical and Adjunct Faculty Johns Hopkins

Dr. Adam Kaplin completed his undergraduate training at Yale University and his MD and Ph.D. training at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. His research training experience includes having trained in the labs of two Nobel Laureates and completed his Ph.D. and postdoctoral training in the Lab of Solomon Snyder, MD, who was the 2005 recipient of the National Medal of Science (the highest scientific honor in the United States). Dr. Kaplin, who maintains his Adjunct Faculty appointment at Johns Hopkins, was the Chief Psychiatric Consultant at the Johns Hopkins Multiple Sclerosis and Transverse Myelitis Centers. Dr. Kaplin investigated the biological basis of the effects of the immune system on mood regulation and cognition, and he provided neuropsychiatric care to patients afflicted with such comorbidities. His research is focused on understanding the biological basis of depression and dementia and discovering new ways to diagnose prognosticate and treat these diseases. Dr. Kaplin has transitioned to working in the pharmaceutical industry as the Chief Scientific Officer of MyMD Pharmaceuticals, which is developing first-in-class therapeutics for a range of autoimmune diseases and immune-mediated neuropsychiatric illnesses, and President of Mira Pharmaceuticals, developing novel Cannabinoid analog therapeutics with psychotropic and anti-inflammatory benefits.

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. 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.

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 a 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.

Scott Zamvil, M.D., Ph.D. - UCSF

Scott S. Zamvil, M.D., Ph.D., is a clinical neurologist and immunologist at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) who specializes in the care of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) and other CNS demyelinating diseases, including neuromyelitis optica (NMO) and MOG antibody-associated disease (MOGAD). His basic science research has focused on understanding how lymphocytes targeting the CNS are activated to cause tissue damage, and learning how one can switch them off. Dr. Zamvil demonstrated for the first time that individual CNS-specific T cells (clones) could cause relapsing paralysis and CNS demyelination in a model of MS. His laboratory showed how other CNS cells (macrophages and microglia) could inhibit those damaging T cells. Much of his research effort has been devoted to elucidating mechanisms of action of approved and novel MS therapeutics, including anti-CD20 B cell-depleting agents (ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®), ofatumumab (Kesimpta®), rituximab), glatiramer acetate (Copaxone®) and dimethyl fumarate (Tecfidera®, Vumerity®).

Dr. Zamvil was a recipient of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) Harry Weaver Scholarship. He serves as Deputy Editor of *Neurology, Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation* (N2) and has also served on the Editorial Boards of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation, The Journal of Immunology, Neurotherapeutics* and *The Journal of Neurological Sciences*. Research in his laboratory is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), Race to Erase MS, Genentech and the Marcus Foundation. Dr. Zamvil has served, or is serving, on committees for the NMSS, NIH, American Congress on Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS), the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and the International Society for Neuroimmunology (ISNI).

Panellists 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. 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 find 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 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.