



## Center Without Walls Program PANELISTS

Center Without Walls Program | MS Forum Webinar and Virtual Expo  
Saturday, May 21, 2022 | 10:00 am PST

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4yADeDWCT3Oe6AJzeNmVnw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4yADeDWCT3Oe6AJzeNmVnw)

### Doctors and Researchers:

#### ***Lilyana Amezcua, M.D. – USC***



Dr. Amezcua is an Associate Professor of Neurology. 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 multiple sclerosis at the University of Southern California (USC) under the tutelage of Leslie Weiner, MD and a NMSS multiple sclerosis clinical fellowship award. 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 under tutelage of Annette Langer-Gould, MD, and PhD. She serves as principal investigator on multiple clinical projects and her research interests includes defining racial/ethnic disparities and modifiable (environmental and sociocultural) from non-modifiable genetic factors involved in disease severity and progression. She also serves as council to several boards such as the NMSS multicultural advisory board, MS Minority Research Engagement Partnership Network, and the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. She is active within her community and lectures both in English and Spanish and was recognized for her dedication in 2015 with an induction into the NMSS Health Professionals Hall of Fame.

#### ***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.

**Erin Longbrake, M.D, Ph.D. - Yale**



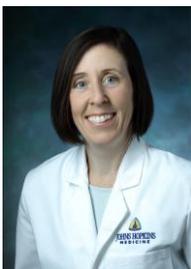
Erin Longbrake, MD, PhD, is an assistant professor of neurology at Yale University. Dr. Longbrake earned her MD and PhD degrees at the Ohio State University, then completed her neurology residency at Washington University in St. Louis. After completion of her residency, she was awarded a prestigious Sylvia Lawry fellowship in neuroimmunology by the National MS Society, which she completed at Washington University. Dr. Longbrake joined the faculty of Yale University in 2016. At Yale, she directs the clinical and translational research program in MS as well as the neuroimmunology fellowship program. She is a leader in MS/Neuroimmunology education, and has led efforts to standardize US-based training and develop a core curriculum for the subspecialty. Dr. Longbrake's scientific interests center around the clinical heterogeneity that is often observed among patients with MS and on elucidating the immunologic changes that precede the development of clinical disease. She is PI for a large, investigator-initiated clinical trial of short-term B-cell depletion in patients with radiologically isolated syndrome. Additional areas of interest include evaluation of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients with neuroimmune diseases and exploration of the role of the microbiome in multiple sclerosis. Dr. Longbrake is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society and has received multiple career development awards, including being named a Scialog fellow, YCCI scholar and Janeway Society member. She has been supported by NIH grants since 2019 and is a former Race to Erase MS Young Investigator.

**Adam Kaplin, M.D, Ph.D. - MyMD Pharmaceuticals**



Dr. Adam Kaplin completed his undergraduate training at Yale University and his MD and PhD 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 PhD and postdoctoral training in the Lab of Solomon Snyder, MD, who was the 2005 recipient of the National Medal of Science (the highest science honor in the United States). Dr. Kaplin was the Chief Psychiatric Consultant to 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. Recently 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. A novel therapeutic has also shown promise in treating age-related illnesses such as frailty and sarcopenia and in preclinical models slows the aging process while maintaining cognitive and physical function.

**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 is professor and vice chair for education in the department of Neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. She is the Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Program and founding Director of the Neurology Residency Training Program. She is also the site director for the third-year UCLA medical student neurology clerkship rotation. 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 and has been a member of the faculty since 1999. 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 numerous awards including Best Doctors in America. 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 medical degree from Vanderbilt University. She did neurology residency at the University of Texas Southwestern and an MS fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Voskuhl is currently the Director of the MS Program, the Jack H. Skirball Chair in MS Research, and Professor in the Dept. of Neurology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Voskuhl was a recipient of the Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholar Award from the National MS Society and lead two separate five-year MS Collaborative Center Awards from the NMSS. She is an internationally recognized expert in MS, focusing on translational work moving from the bedside (clinical observations) to the bench (research) to the bedside (novel clinical trials). Dr. Voskuhl has led four novel clinical trials in MS testing new treatments based on results from research in her laboratory. She received the Berlin Institute of Health Excellence Award for Sex and Gender Aspects in Health Research for 2018, a global award recognizing excellence in all areas of health research (not limited to MS). Dr. Voskuhl is also President of the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences, an international organization dedicated to understanding sex differences in diseases to advance health in both women and men. Dr. Voskuhl's patient care focuses on the diagnosis of MS as well as on changes in MS treatment management. She trains the next generation of MS researchers, including junior faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and undergraduates. Her laboratory is currently funded by two grants from the National Institutes of Health to find new remyelinating and neural repair strategies for MS and by another from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation which translates basic research in neuroprotective strategies to 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 serves on the Nomination Committee of the American Neurological Association. She is a section editor for *Annals of Clinical Translational Neurology* and co-chief editor of *MS and Related Disorders*. 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.

### ***Mark Barondess***



A lawyer for 37 years, Mr. Barondess has earned a well-established national reputation as a respected aggressive civil trial advocate. As the co-founding partner of the forty lawyer Los Angeles litigation boutique law firm, Miller Barondess, LLP, Mr. Barondess has developed a national stature of respect amongst members of the Bar and Judiciary, especially in the settlement or trial of complex high-profile litigation of matters in the civil litigation field and entertainment and family law practices. His high-profile clients have included a former major Presidential candidate, an Academy Award winning best actress, Emmy award winners, Grammy Award winners, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductees and various sports legends including two Olympic Gold Medalists. In support of the community, Mr. Barondess is the Vice-Chairman, General Counsel and a Member of the Board of Directors of the We are Family Foundation, a not for profit organization founded by music legend Nile Rodgers, which is dedicated to the vision of a global family by creating and supporting programs that promote cultural diversity while nurturing and mentoring the vision, talents, and ideas of young people who are positively changing the world. He also serves on the Board of Ambassadors of The Johns Hopkins Project Restore, which strives to restore hope, restore function and restore the lives of patients like him and families suffering with transverse myelitis and multiple sclerosis.

### ***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.

### ***David Osmond***



DAVID OSMOND has show business in his genealogy, as part of the world famous OSMOND FAMILY. David’s music career has featured tours to sold out arenas in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, and included several songs in the top 40 on the U.K. charts. As a BROADWAY theatrical artist, he most notably starred in the lead role as JOSEPH in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat with multiple companies. He has just launched an exciting new BIG BAND project called, The Osmond Chapman Orchestra (OCO), with a debut album coming this fall. As the EMMY-nominated new host of the legendary TV program, WONDERAMA, David is excited to introduce and explore a world filled with wonder for a future generation of kids and their families.