



Multiple sclerosis and related disorders among children: updates on diagnosis, treatment and outcome

Ferrara, September 24-25, 2026

Nuovo Polo Didattico di Cona,
Università degli Studi di Ferrara

Chairs:
Maura Pugliatti
Agnese Suppiej

Con il patrocinio di



Università
degli Studi
di Ferrara

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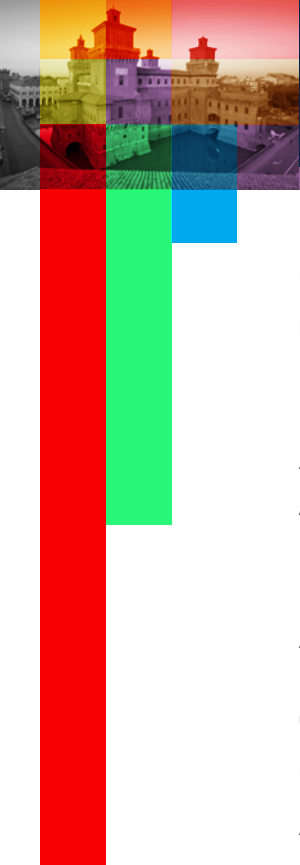


un mondo libero
dalla SM



un mondo libero
da MALCOST
e MOZZO

Centro Interdipartimentale
per lo Studio della Sclerosi Multipla
e delle Malattie Infiammatorie
e Degenerative del Sistema Nervoso
Università degli Studi di Ferrara



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> Scientific Rationale

Inflammatory demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system (multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica) affect adults and individuals under the age of 18. Approximately 5% of cases of multiple sclerosis represent a pediatric form, characterized by symptoms similar to the adult form, but often with a multifocal and aggressive clinical onset related to more pronounced inflammatory mechanisms than in adults.

There are at least four reasons why clinicians and researchers also focus on central nervous system demyelinating disease in children: (1) the complexity of the differential diagnosis compared to other pathologies (e.g., infectious, storage, genetic); (2) the central nervous system involvement in childhood with the consequent impact on cognitive development; (3) the limited availability of therapeutic options in children (e.g., use of off-label medications); and (4) in terms of etiological research, the close temporal relationship between exposure and the onset of symptoms.

The management of young patients with multiple sclerosis or neuromyelitis optica should therefore be relegated to specialized centers and a multidisciplinary approach coordinated by expert neuropediatricians and neurologists.

The conference features nationally and internationally renowned experts on inflammatory demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system. Starting from the long-standing experience on the management of adult multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica, such evidence will be translated to the pediatric population, highlighting similarities and criticalities. The conference will offer a unique opportunity for clinical, diagnostic, and therapeutic insights and a scientific update on the topic. Psychosocial and organizational aspects related to these conditions will also be addressed.

Maura Pugliatti
Agnese Suppiej

Faculty



Maria Pia Amato, Firenze
Brenda Banwell, Baltimore - Usa
Eleonora Baldi, Ferrara
Federica Balzani, Genova
Roberto Bergamaschi, Pavia
Elisa Cainelli, Padova
Massimiliano Castellazzi, Ferrara
Duccio Maria Cordelli, Bologna
Sandra D'Alfonso, Novara
Kumaran Deiva, Paris - Francia
Ermelinda De Meo, Firenze
Giulia Fadda, Ottawa - Canada
Raffaele Falsaperla, Ferrara
Caterina Ferri, Ferrara
Salvatore Ferro, Bologna
Massimo Filippi, Milano
Cristina Forest, Ferrara
Angelo Ghezzi, Novara
Laetitia Giorgi, Paris - Francia
Ming Lim, London - Gran Bretagna
Stefano Masciocchi, Pavia
Rinze Neuteboom, Rotterdam – Paesi Bassi
Giuditta Pellino, Ferrara
Agata Polizzi, Catania
Maura Pugliatti, Ferrara
Kevin Michael Rostasy, Witten - Germania
Elisa Rozzi, Bologna
Martino Ruggieri, Catania
Salvatore Savasta, Cagliari
Stefano Sotgiu, Sassari
Agnese Suppiej, Ferrara
Alessia Villani, Genova



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Programma

Thursday 24th September, 2026

09.30 Registration

10.00 Welcome Introduction
Institutional greetings

SESSION I

Neuroinflammatory diseases in the pediatric population: 'the big picture'

Chairpersons: **Maura Pugliatti, Agnese Suppiej**

10.00 Brain health in children: a European perspective
Kevin Rostasy

10.45 Pediatric multiple sclerosis: evidence from international networks
Brenda Banwell (*remote presentation*)

11.30 Inflammatory disorders of CNS in children
Kumaran Deiva

12.00 MRI acquisitions in pediatric multiple sclerosis
Massimo Filippi

12.30 Disease registry and pediatric multiple sclerosis (KIDSEP)
Laetitia Giorgi

13.00 Discussion

13.15 Light lunch

SESSION II

The epidemiology of multiple sclerosis and related disorders (MSARD) among children vs. adult population: burden and risk factors

Chairpersons: **Agnese Suppiej, Kevin Rostasy**

14.15 Multiple sclerosis
Martino Ruggieri

14.45 Acute demyelinating syndrome: prognosis and follow up
Rinze Neuteboom

15.15 Typical and atypical manifestations of pediatric multiple sclerosis and differential diagnosis
Agnese Suppiej

15.45 Discussion

16.00 Coffee break

SESSION III

The PEDIGREE study

Chairpersons: **Maria Pia Amato, Angelo Ghezzi, Maura Pugliatti**

16.30 The role of genes in pediatric MS-ARD:
the PEDIGREE Study
Sandra D'Alfonso

17.00 The role of environment (pollution) in pediatric MS-ARD:
the PEDIGREE Study
Roberto Bergamaschi

17.30 Modifiable lifestyle risk factors and pediatric MS-ARD:
the PEDIGREE Study
Caterina Ferri

SESSION IV

The participation and engagement of the associations and policy makers

Chairpersons: **Maura Pugliatti, Agnese Suppiej, Stefano Sotgiu**

18.00 Unmet needs of children with MSARD and their families
Discussion

AISM-AINMO - **Federica Balzani, Alessia Villani**
Regione Emilia Romagna - **Salvatore Ferro, Elisa Rozzi**

18.30 Closing remarks



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Friday 25th September, 2026

SESSION V

Clinical manifestations of pediatric vs. adult MSARD

Chairpersons: **Stefano Sotgiu, Salvatore Savasta, Eleonora Baldi**

9.00 NMOSD (MOGAD, AQP4)
Ming Lim

9.30 Disease modifying treatments in MSARD:
focus on early vs. adult onset multiple sclerosis
Stefano Sotgiu

10.00 Sex- and age-related disease differences
Agata Polizzi

10.30 Discussion

10.45 Coffee break

SESSION VI

Pediatric vs. adult MSARD: social and educational impact and rehabilitation

Chairpersons: **Raffaele Falsaperla, Maria Pugliatti, Martino Ruggieri**

11.30 Cognition and behaviour in pediatric MSARD
Elisa Cainelli

12.00 The social and educational impact of pediatric MSARD
and the role of rehabilitation
Ermelinda De Meo

12.30 Pediatric multiple sclerosis and transition to adult life
Maura Pugliatti

13.00 Discussion

13.15 Light lunch

SESSION VII

Pediatric MSARD and biomarkers

Chairpersons: **Massimiliano Castellazzi,**
Duccio Cordelli, Ming Lim

- 14.30 The silent burden of multiple sclerosis:
MRI and brain atrophy in the pediatric population
Giulia Fadda (*remote presentation*)
- 15.00 Fluid biomarkers in the differential diagnosis
of multiple sclerosis, MOGAD and other demyelinating
disorders of the central nervous system
Stefano Masciocchi
- 15.30 Discussion

SESSION VIII

Clinical cases

Chairpersons: **Caterina Ferri, Cristina Forest,**
Giuditta Pellino

- 16.15 **Clinical case 1**
Clinical Presentation at Onset of Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis
Through the presentation of a clinical case, the initial manifestations of pediatric multiple sclerosis will be examined, with particular emphasis on the clinical features that raise diagnostic suspicion. The discussion will highlight the main challenges of the early diagnostic work-up and their implications for clinical practice.
Cristina Forest
- 16.25 **Clinical case 2**
When It Occurs in Childhood: Differential Diagnosis
A clinical case will serve as the starting point for discussing the differential diagnosis of pediatric acquired demyelinating disorders. Clinical, laboratory, and neuroradiological findings that support the distinction between different disease entities and guide the diagnostic work-up will be reviewed.
Giuditta Pellino



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- 16.35 **Clinical case 3**
Therapeutic Challenges and Transition to Adult Care
This clinical case will illustrate the key challenges in the therapeutic management of pediatric multiple sclerosis and the transition from pediatric to adult healthcare services. Organizational, clinical, and continuity-of-care aspects will be addressed, with a particular focus on individualized transition planning and patient-centered care.
Caterina Ferri
- 16.45 Discussion
- 17.00 Closing remarks

EDUCAZIONE CONTINUA IN MEDICINA

L'evento nazionale è stato accreditato per 80 iscritti al Ministero della Salute dal provider Servizitalia soc. coop. n. 5183-489188 per le seguenti categorie professionali: Medico Chirurgo (discipline accreditate: Malattie infettive, Neurologia, Pediatria, Psichiatria, Reumatologia, Oftalmologia, Otorinolaringoiatria, Anatomia Patologica, Biochimica Clinica, Microbiologia e virologia, Neurofisiopatologia, Neuroradiologia) Neuropsichiatria infantile. Obiettivo formativo 3 - Documentazione clinica. Percorsi clinico-assistenziali diagnostici e riabilitativi, profili di assistenza - profili di cura. Per il rilascio dei crediti occorre: appartenere ad una delle discipline per le quali è stato accreditato l'evento, frequentare il 90% del totale delle ore di formazione dell'evento, compilare la scheda anagrafica, superare il test di apprendimento ECM sul sito <https://congressi.servizitalia.it/> entro tre giorni dalla fine dell'evento. Servizitalia non si assume la responsabilità dell'eventuale mancata assegnazione dei crediti da parte del Ministero della Salute in caso di compilazione errata o parziale delle schede.

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L'iscrizione ai lavori congressuali comprende: colazioni di lavoro come da programma, accesso ai crediti ECM e attestato di partecipazione.

SEDE

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SEGRETERIA ORGANIZZATIVA E PROVIDER

SERVIZITALIA – ID 5183

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Si ringraziano le aziende che sostengono in modo non condizionato questo evento.

