Welcome to the 2017 Rare Neuro-Immune Disorders Symposium, where we will learn about these rare neuro-immune disorders, and examine what the future will look like in five years for individuals and families affected by Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMOSD), Optic Neuritis (ON), and Transverse Myelitis (including the subtype Acute Flaccid Myelitis).

This conference, hosted by The Transverse Myelitis Association (TMA), The Johns Hopkins Transverse Myelitis Center (JHTMC) and NMO Clinic, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) and Children's Medical Center CONQUER Program, is dedicated to the exchange of information regarding diagnosis, research, and treatment strategies, and to providing an opportunity to bring together the community of individuals diagnosed with these rare neuro-immune disorders, families, caregivers, and the medical professionals who have interest and are specializing in these disorders.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Gather an understanding of the knowledge to date on the biology and causes of rare neuro-immune disorders (TM, NMOSD, AFM, ADEM, and ON) and how they relate to each other
- Learn about the latest medical and surgical strategies to manage the symptoms associated with these chronic rare neuro-immune disorders
- Gain knowledge on current and future basic science research and clinical studies that will improve the quality of life of our community

**AUDIENCE**

This conference is open to all individuals diagnosed with ADEM, NMOSD, ON, and TM, including AFM, their families, and caregivers. Medical professionals interested in these disorders are also welcome to attend.

**REGISTRATION**

For more details on the agenda and to register for the symposium, please go to [myelitis.org/event/2017-rnds](http://myelitis.org/event/2017-rnds)

All presentations will be video-recorded and made available at [http://myelitis.org](http://myelitis.org)

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Friday, October 20

7:00-9:00 am  Breakfast and registration

9:00 - 9:15 am  Welcome and goals of the 2017 RNDS
Sandy Siegel, PhD | President, The TMA

9:15 - 10:15 am  What are rare neuro-immune disorders?
Brenda Banwell, MD | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

10:15 - 10:30 am  Break

10:30 - 12:00 pm  Workshop sessions on the diagnosis and treatment of rare neuro-immune disorders

Session 1: Transverse myelitis
Carlos Pardo-Villamizar, MD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Allen DeSena, MD, MPH | Cincinnati Children's

Session 2: Acute flaccid myelitis
Sarah Hopkins, MD, MSPH | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Benjamin Greenberg, MD, MHS | University of Texas Southwestern and Children's Medical Center

Session 3: Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder and optic neuritis
Michael Levy, MD, PhD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Maureen Mealy, RN, BSN, MSCN | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Session 4: Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis
Brenda Banwell, MD | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Cynthia Wang, MD | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

12:00 - 1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00 - 1:40 pm  Recognizing and treating neuropathic pain
Maureen Mealy, RN, BSN, MSCN | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

1:40 - 2:15 pm  Managing fatigue in rare neuro-immune disorders
Michael Sweeney, MD | University of Louisville

2:15 - 3:00 pm  Bladder, bowel, and sexual dysfunction in rare neuro-immune disorders
Philippines Cabahug, MD | The Kennedy Krieger Institute

3:00 - 3:15 pm  Break

3:15 - 4:00 pm  Living with a rare neuro-immune disorder: neuropsychological factors to consider
Lana Harder, PhD | University of Texas Southwestern and Children's Medical Center

4:00 - 4:45 pm  Rehabilitation in rare neuro-immune disorders
Daniel Becker, MD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and INI

4:45 - 5:15 pm  Open forum for questions and answers

5:30 - 8:00 pm  Dinner reception
Saturday, October 21

7:30 - 9:00 am
Breakfast

9:00 - 10:15 am
Small group workshop session I (select one topic below)

10:15 - 10:45 am
Break

10:45 - 12:00 pm
Small group workshop session II (select one topic below)

Small group workshop sessions

SGWS I: Depression and cognitive dysfunction
Lana Harder, PhD | University of Texas Southwestern and Children's Medical Center, Dallas
Cole Hague, MS | University of Texas Southwestern

SGWS II: Bowel, bladder, and sexual dysfunction
Philippines Cabahug, MD | The Kennedy Krieger Institute
Paula Hardeman, MPAS, PA-C | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

SGWS III: Rehabilitation
Daniel Becker, MD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and INI
Janet Dean, MS, RN, CRRN, CRNP, CRND | Kennedy Krieger Institute

SGWS IV: Managing your care and support for caregivers
Katherine Treadaway, LCSW, MSCIR | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Rebecca Whitney | The Transverse Myelitis Association
Gabrielle deFiebre, MPH | The Transverse Myelitis Association

SGWS V: Neuropathic pain
Michael Sweeney, MD | University of Louisville
Maureen Mealy, RN, BSN, MSCN | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

SGWS VI: Alternative therapies
Benjamin Greenberg, MD, MHS | University of Texas Southwestern and Children's Medical Center
Allen DeSena, MD, MPH | Cincinnati Children's

SGWS VII: Transition from adolescents to young adults
Anjali Forber-Pratt, PhD | Vanderbilt University
Audrey Keech RN, BSN, MSCN, CRND | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

SGWS VIII: Pediatric-specific issues
Cynthia Wang, MD | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Sarah Hopkins, MD, MSPH | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
... Saturday, October 21 (cont’d)

12:00 - 1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00 - 3:00 pm  Research updates and the future of research

- **Improving certainty of a myelitis diagnosis**
  Carlos Pardo-Villamizar, MD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

- **Advanced imaging to better understand myelitis and pain in children and young adults**
  Nadia Barakat, PhD | Boston Children’s Hospital

- **Are new drugs on the horizon for NMOSD?**
  Maureen Mealy, RN, BSN, MSCN | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

- **Dalfampridine for gait in transverse myelitis**
  Michael Levy, MD, PhD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

- **ADEM: past, present and future?**
  Cynthia Wang, MD | University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

- **Can brain imaging tell us more about a spinal cord disorder?**
  Lana Harder, PhD | University of Texas Southwestern and Children’s Medical Center

3:00 - 3:20 pm  Break

3:20 - 5:20 pm  ... Research updates and the future of research (cont’d)

- **What have we learned from the CAPTURE study?**
  Benjamin Greenberg, MD, MHS | University of Texas Southwestern and Children’s Medical Center

- **Hope vs. Hype: Are we ready for stem cells in neuro-immune disorders?**
  Jaime Imitola, MD | Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

- **Can functional electrical stimulation restore function?**
  Daniel Becker, MD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and INI

- **Genetics of familial transverse myelitis**
  Michael Levy, MD, PhD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

- **Can the immune system help repair myelin?**
  Denise Fitzgerald, PhD | Queen’s University Belfast

- **Are remyelination strategies realistic?**
  Benjamin Greenberg, MD, MHS | University of Texas Southwestern and Children’s Medical Center

5:20 - 5:30  Closing

Carlos Pardo-Villamizar, MD | The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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Friday & Saturday
October 20-21, 2017

More info: tma.org/2017-rnds

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