

# Encephalitis 2023

*The conference will be a hybrid event  
(in-person and virtual attendance)*

TUESDAY  
5TH DECEMBER 2023  
07.30 - 18.15

TO INCLUDE LUNCH,  
REFRESHMENTS, AND  
EARLY EVENING WINE  
RECEPTION

ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS  
11 ST ANDREWS PLACE  
REGENT'S PARK,  
LONDON NW1 4LE  
[WWW.RCPLONDON.AC.UK](http://WWW.RCPLONDON.AC.UK)

## **Keynote Lectures:**

### **Epidemiological Adventures in Encephalitis**

Dr James Sejvar, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA

### **Intersectoral Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders**

Dr Tarun Dua, World Health Organization (WHO)

## **Invited Guest Lectures:**

### **The Role of Dexamethasone in Herpes Encephalitis; a Crystal Clear Answer**

Prof Tom Solomon CBE, The Pandemic Institute; NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections; University of Liverpool, UK

### **Paediatric Autoimmune Encephalitides**

Dr Sukhvir Wright, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust; Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment, Aston University, UK

**This event is supported by:** UCB, miDiagnostics, Roche, SVAR Wieslab, EUROIMMUN, Valneva, University of Liverpool, Aston University, Guarantors of the Brain, The Lancet Neurology, Routledge, ACNR

# PROGRAMME

# ENCEPHALITIS 2023

The conference will be a hybrid event  
(in-person and virtual attendance)

07.30 Registration

08.00 Welcome/Introduction to the Breakfast Session

**Dr Nick Davies, Chair - Scientific Advisory Panel;  
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, UK**

08.05 Basic clinical introduction to infectious encephalitis  
**Prof Benedict Michael, University of Liverpool, UK**

08.35 Discussion

08.45 Basic clinical introduction to autoimmune encephalitis  
**Prof Sarosh Irani, Mayo Clinic Florida, USA**

09.15 Discussion

09:25 Registration/Refreshments

09.45 Welcome

**Dr Ava Easton, Encephalitis Society  
Dr Nick Davies, Chelsea and Westminster  
Hospital, London, UK**

## SESSION 1 CHAIRS:

Dr Ava Easton, Encephalitis Society

Dr Nick Davies, Chelsea and Westminster  
Hospital, London, UK

09.50 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1**  
Intersectoral Plan on Epilepsy and Other  
Neurological Disorders  
**Dr Tarun Dua, World Health Organization**

10.15 Discussion

10.20 Comparative characteristics in anti-LGI1 and anti-  
CASPR2 encephalitis  
**Dr Sophia Michael & Dr Christine Strippel,  
Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, UK**

10.35 Discussion

10.40 Auto-antibodies neutralizing type I IFNs underlie  
West Nile virus encephalitis in ~40% of patients  
**Mr Adrian Gervais, Institut National de la Santé et  
de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) U1163, France**

10.50 Discussion

10.55 ES funded research: Host mRNA signature in scrub  
typhus meningoencephalitis  
**Dr Tina Damodar, National Institute of Mental  
Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India**

11.05 Discussion

11.10 Tea and Coffee/Poster Viewing/  
Exhibition Stands

## SESSION 2 CHAIRS:

Dr Matteo Gastaldi, Neuroimmunology  
Research Unit, Pavia, Italy

Prof Carsten Finke, Charite-Universitätsmedizin  
Berlin, Germany

11.30 NMDA receptor encephalitis and multiple sclerosis  
overlap syndrome - clinical findings and MRI  
characteristics

**Dr Joseph Kuchling, Charité - Universitätsmedizin  
Berlin, Germany**

11.40 Discussion

11.45 Cognitive outcomes and associated biomarkers  
and neuroimaging in COVID-19 encephalitis:  
analysis of the UK COVID-19 CNS  
**Dr Greta Wood, University of Liverpool, UK**

11.55 Discussion

12.00 Highly differentiated LGI1/CASPR2-reactive  
plasmablasts characterise CSF of encephalitis  
patients and provide a potential treatment target  
**Dr Jakob Theorell, Karolinska Institutet,  
Stockholm, Sweden**

12.10 Discussion

12.15 Recovery trajectories after severe encephalitis:  
a prospective multicentre cohort study  
**Prof Romain Sonnevile, Claude Bernard Bichat  
Hospital, France**

12.25 Discussion

12.30 **INVITED GUEST LECTURE 1**  
Paediatric Autoimmune Encephalitides  
**Dr Sukhvir Wright, Aston University, UK**

12.55 Discussion

13.00 Lunch/Poster Viewing/Exhibition Stands

### SESSION 3 CHAIRS:

Prof Angela Vincent, University of Oxford, UK

Dr Thomas Pollak, King's College London, UK

14.15 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2**  
Epidemiological Adventures in Encephalitis  
**Dr Jim Sejvar, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA**

14.40 *Discussion*

14.45 Functional neurological disorder in the long-term management of adults with autoimmune encephalitis and related disorders  
**Dr Nicole Lichtblau, King's College Hospital, London, UK**

14.55 *Discussion*

15.00 Exploring barriers and enablers to vaccine confidence among ethnically diverse communities in Liverpool - Qualitative findings from the MSD Liverpool Vaccine Confidence Project  
**Ms Charlotte O'Halloran, MSD, UK**

15.10 *Discussion*

15.15 **Tea and Coffee/Poster Viewing/Exhibition Stands**

### SESSION 4 CHAIRS:

Assoc Prof Kiran Thakur, Columbia University, USA

Prof Benedict Michael, University of Liverpool, UK

15.45 The epidemiology and possible aetiology of encephalitis lethargica in a large historical cohort  
**Dr Jonathan Rogers, University College London, UK**

15.55 *Discussion*

16.00 **DEBATE:** "This house believes that too much time and money is being spent identifying new antibodies in autoimmune encephalitis."

**Chair:** Dr Thomas Pollak, King's College London, UK

**For:** Dr Sophie Binks, Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, UK

**Against:** Prof. Dr. Harald Prüss, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

16.30 **INVITED GUEST LECTURE 2**  
The Role of Dexamethasone in Herpes Encephalitis; a Crystal Clear Answer  
**Prof Tom Solomon CBE, The Pandemic Institute and The University of Liverpool, UK**

16.55 *Discussion*

17.00 Our Year - the Encephalitis Society  
**Phillippa Chapman, Deputy CEO, Encephalitis Society**

17.05 Awards and Prizes for Best Oral and Poster Presentations  
**Dr Ava Easton & Dr Nick Davies**

17.10 Calls to Action and Close  
**Dr Ava Easton & Dr Nick Davies**

17.15 **WINE NETWORKING RECEPTION**

18.15 **CLOSE**



**ENCEPHALITIS  
SOCIETY**

*The brain inflammation charity*

# Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel

## **Dr Nicholas Davies**

Chair of the Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel  
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital London, UK

## **Prof Benedict Michael**

Vice chair of the Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel  
NIHR HPRU for Emerging and Zoonotic Infection  
The Walton Centre, Liverpool, UK

## **Dr Bonnie-Kate Dewar**

Neuropsychology Services Limited  
London, UK

## **Dr Ava Easton**

CEO, Encephalitis Society  
University of Liverpool  
Liverpool, UK

## **Prof Carsten Finke**

Charité Berlin  
Berlin School of Brain and Mind, Humboldt  
Universität  
Berlin, Germany

## **Dr Jessica Fish**

Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University  
of Glasgow  
Glasgow, UK

## **Dr Matteo Gastaldi**

Neuroimmunology Research Unit, IRCCS  
Mondino Foundation  
Pavia, Italy

## **Prof Sarosh R. Irani**

Mayo Clinic, Florida, USA  
Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, UK

## **Prof Peter GE Kennedy CBE**

Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology,  
University of Glasgow  
Glasgow, UK  
Queen Mary University of London  
London, UK

## **Assoc Prof Kiran Thakur**

Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
New York, USA

## **Dr Rachel Kneen**

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust  
Institute of Infection & Global Health,  
University of Liverpool  
Liverpool, UK

## **Prof Frank Leypoldt**

Inst. of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory  
Medicine, Kiel University  
Kiel, Germany

## **Prof Nick Makwana**

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust  
Birmingham, UK

## **Dr Thomas Pollak**

Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and  
Neuroscience, King's College London  
South London and Maudsley NHS  
Foundation Trust  
London, UK

## **Dr Stephen Ray**

University of Oxford, UK

## **Dr James J. Sejvar**

Division of High-Consequence Pathogens  
and Pathology  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic  
Infectious Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
USA  
Emory University School of Medicine  
Atlanta, USA

## **Assist Prof Omar K. Siddiqi**

Harvard Medical School  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,  
Boston, USA  
University of Zambia School of Medicine,  
Zambia

## **Dr Arleta Starza Smith**

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust  
Nottingham, UK

## **Prof Tom Solomon CBE**

The Pandemic Institute  
NIHR HPRU in Emerging and Zoonotic  
Infections  
Brain Infections Group  
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust and  
Royal Liverpool University Hospital  
Liverpool, UK

## **Assoc Prof Maarten Titulaer**

Erasmus University Medical Center  
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

## **Dr Michel Toledano**

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA

## **Dr Lance Turtle**

Institute of Infection, Veterinary and  
Ecological Sciences, University of Liverpool,  
Liverpool, UK

## **Prof Arun Venkatesan**

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
John Hopkins Encephalitis Centre  
Baltimore, MD, USA

## **Prof Angela Vincent**

Somerville College, University of Oxford  
Oxford, UK

## **Dr Steven White**

Cromwell Hospital, London, UK

## **Dr Greta Wood**

University of Liverpool, UK