

## The 11th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders

May 13-16, 2007

Renaissance Chicago Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois



*This meeting is offered jointly by:*  
The New York Academy of Sciences  
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.  
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### The 11th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders

The topics and subjects covered at the 11th International Conference will include advances in 1) structure and function of the NMJ, 2) structure and function of the AChR, 3) molecular and cellular biology of neurotransmitter release, 4) other components of the neuromuscular junction (basal lamina and the Schwann Cell), 5) other neuromuscular transmission disorders (congenital myasthenic syndromes, Miller Fisher syndrome), 6) autoimmune pathogenesis in acquired MG, 7) autoimmune pathogenesis of ion channel diseases, and 8) clinical aspects of MG. The sessions will include information on the basic biology of the NMJ and on the diseases involving this structure and will move from the basic to the purely clinical over the course of the conference. Single cell analysis of autoimmunity will be the subject of a keynote address.

Since the last meeting in 2002, there has been a dramatic number of significant reports in the structure and function of the NMJ and corresponding studies in the understanding of disorders of the NMJ. The international conference has been and remains the forum where scientists from diverse disciplines interact with each other ensuring these insights are disseminated effectively to others in the field. This conference will bring together scientists, clinicians and researchers who work in this field and other related areas of autoimmune and neuromuscular disease.

#### CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

*Henry J. Kaminski, M.D.*  
Chair of Neurology and Psychiatry  
Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri  
*Member of the MGFA Medical/Scientific Advisory Board*

*Richard Barohn, M.D.*  
Landon Center on Aging, Department of Neurology  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
Kansas City, Kansas  
*Member of the MGFA Medical/Scientific Advisory Board*

#### MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

The MGFA is a national voluntary health agency with chapters throughout the United States. The foundation sponsors research fellowships and medical symposia; provides patient services; promotes public awareness; and furthers medical education. For information, T: 651.917.6256 or 800.541.5454; F: 651.917.1835; E: mgfa@myasthenia.org; W: www.myasthenia.org.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

**Talecris Biotherapeutics:** PLATINUM SPONSOR  
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.  
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Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois, Inc.

# The 11th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2007 6:00 – 7:30 PM

6:00-7:30 PM Registration

6:00-7:30 PM Welcome Reception

Sponsored by: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007 7:30 AM – 7:30 PM

7:30-8:15 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:15-8:30 AM Opening Remarks

*Janet M. Golden*, Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.

*Rashid Shaikh, Ph.D.*, The New York Academy of Sciences

*Robert M. Pascuzzi, M.D.*, MGFA Medical Scientific Board

*Richard Barohn, M.D.* & *Henry J. Kaminski, M.D.*, Conference Organizers

8:30-10:00 AM Session I: Structure and Function of the Neuromuscular Junction

Session Chairs: *Clarke Slater, Ph.D.*, Newcastle University Medical School  
*Robert Ruff, M.D.*, Case Western Reserve University

Biology and Biophysics of Neuromuscular Transmission  
*Clarke Slater, Ph.D.*, Newcastle University Medical School

Cell to Cell Signaling at the Neuromuscular Junction: The Dynamic Role of the Extracellular Matrix

*Michael Werle, Ph.D.*, University of Kansas Medical Center

The Role of Non-neuronal Cells in the Formation and Maintenance of the Neuromuscular Junction

*Chien-Ping Ko, Ph.D.*, University of Southern California

10:00-10:30 AM Intermission

10:30 AM-12:20 PM Session II: Structure and Function of the Acetylcholine Receptor

Session Chair: *Jon Lindstrom, Ph.D.*, Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania

Structure and Function of Acetylcholine Receptors  
*Jon Lindstrom, Ph.D.*, Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania

The Nicotinic Receptor at the Neuromuscular Junction: Structure, Function, Pathology

*Jean Pierre Changeux, Ph.D.*, Institute Pasteur

Coupling of Agonist Binding to Channel Gating in the Muscle Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor

*Steven M. Sine, Ph.D.*, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Specific Conotoxin Inhibition of Fetal Acetylcholine Receptor  
*Russell Teichert, Ph.D.*, University of Utah

12:30-2:00 PM Conference Luncheon

Sponsored by: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois, Inc., a chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.

2:00-3:30 PM Session III: Muscle Specific Kinase and Myasthenia Gravis

Session Chairs: *Angela Vincent, M.D.*, University of Oxford  
*Donald Sanders, M.D.*, Duke University Medical Center

Clinical Phenotype of MuSK-Antibody-Positive Myasthenia Gravis  
*Gil Wolfe, M.D.*, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Response to Therapy in MuSK Myasthenia Gravis  
*Amelia Evoli, M.D.*, Catholic University

Muscle-specific Kinase Related Myasthenia Gravis  
*Angela Vincent, M.D.*, University of Oxford

Experimentally Induced Myasthenia Gravis with Muscle Specific Kinase  
*Kazuhiro Shigemoto, M.D., Ph.D.*, Ehime University School of Medicine

3:20-3:30 PM General Discussion

Speakers and *Andrew G. Engel, M.D.*

3:30-4:00 PM Intermission

4:00-5:50 PM Session IV: Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes

Session Chair: *Andrew G. Engel, M.D.*, Mayo Clinic

Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes and the Formation of the Neuromuscular Junction

*David Beeson, Ph.D.*, University of Oxford

Further Observations in Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes  
*Andrew G. Engel, M.D.*, Mayo Clinic

5:00-5:30 PM Speaker Selected from Submitted Abstracts

5:30-5:50 PM Special Presentation: NIH Funding Plans

*John D. Porter, Ph.D.*, Program Director, Neuromuscular Disease, National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

6:00-7:30 PM Poster Session I

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM



7:30-8:00 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:00-8:45 AM Keynote Address: Autoimmunity and Signaling at the Single Cell Level

Garry P. Nolan, Ph.D., Stanford University School of Medicine  
(Introduction by: Henry J. Kaminski, M.D.)

8:45-10:45 AM Session V: Immunology of Autoimmune Disorders Involving Neuronal and Glial Channel Proteins

Session Chair: Vanda A. Lennon, M.D., Ph.D., Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Neuromyelitis Optica: An Astrocytic Water Channelopathy  
Vanda A. Lennon, M.D., Ph.D., Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

Anti-ganglioside Antibodies and the Presynaptic Motor Nerve Terminal  
Hugh John Willison, M.D., Ph.D., University of Glasgow

Autoimmunity Against Neuronal Acetylcholine Receptors  
Steven Vernino, M.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome: Tumour Versus Non-Tumour Forms  
Jan Verschuuren, M.D., Ph.D., Leiden University Medical Center

10:45-11:15 AM Intermission

11:15 AM-12:15 PM Session VI: Autoimmune Pathogenesis of Myasthenia Gravis: Current Concepts

Session Chairs: John Newsom-Davis, M.D., University of Oxford  
Nicholas Willcox, M.D., Ph.D., University of Oxford

Pathogenic and Regulatory Mechanisms in Myasthenia Gravis  
Sonia Berrih-Aknin, Ph.D., Hopital Marie Lannelongue

Common Cellular and Divers Genetic Basis of Thymoma-associated Myasthenia Gravis  
Alexander Marx, M.D., University Hospital Mannheim

12:15-1:30 PM Conference Luncheon

Sponsored by: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois, Inc., a chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.

1:30-5:30 PM Session VI Continued: Autoimmune Pathogenesis of Myasthenia Gravis: Current Concepts

Session Chairs: John Newsom-Davis, M.D., University of Oxford  
Nicholas Willcox, M.D., Ph.D., University of Oxford

Central Tolerance and Autoimmunity: New Molecular Insights  
Bruno Kyewski, Ph.D., German Cancer Research Center

Mechanisms of Autoimmunization in Thymus and Thymoma  
Nicholas Willcox, M.D., Ph.D., University of Oxford

Competitor Antibodies in the Treatment of EAMG/MG  
Marc De Baets, M.D., Ph.D., Academical Hospital Maastricht

Genetic Factors in Autoimmune Myasthenia Gravis  
Henri-Jean Garchon, M.D., Ph.D., INSERM, University of Paris

3:30-4:00 PM Intermission

Cytokines in the Pathogenesis of Acquired Myasthenia Gravis  
Bianca Conti-Fine, M.D., University of Minnesota

Classical Complement Pathway in Experimental Autoimmune Myasthenia Gravis Pathogenesis  
Premkumar Christadoss, Ph.D., University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Extraocular Muscle Susceptibility to Myasthenia Gravis: Unique Immunological Environment?  
Henry J. Kaminski, M.D., Saint Louis University School of Medicine

5:30-7:00 PM Poster Session II

7:30-10:00 PM Reception

Location: The Signature Room at the 95th  
Sponsored by: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM



8:00-8:30 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30-11:40 AM Session VII: Clinical Trials of Myasthenia Gravis

Session Chairs: *Richard Barohn, M.D.*, University of Kansas Medical Center  
*Philippe Gajdos, M.D.*, Hopital Raymond Poincare

Overview of: Treatment and Clinical Research in Myasthenia Gravis:  
How Far We Have Come

*Richard Barohn, M.D.*, University of Kansas Medical Center

Myasthenia Gravis in the Elderly: Is It Different?

*Johan A. Aarli, M.D.*, University of Bergen

Rules of Evidence for Clinical Trials

*Gary Cutter, Ph.D.*, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Clinical Trials for Ocular Myasthenia

*Mark J. Kupersmith, M.D.*, Roosevelt Hospital

Clinical Trials of Mycophenolate Mofetil in Myasthenia Gravis

*Donald Sanders, M.D.*, Duke University Medical Center

10:10-10:40 AM Intermission

Tacrolimus for Myasthenia Gravis

*Jose M. Ponseti, M.D., Ph.D., FACS*, Hospital General Universitari Vall d'Hebron

The Effectiveness of IVIG Treatment in Myasthenia Gravis

*Lorne Zinman, M.D.*, University of Toronto

Treatment of Myasthenia Gravis Acute Exacerbations with IVIG

*Philippe Gajdos, M.D.*, Hopital Raymond Poincare

11:40 AM-1:00 PM Session VIII: Treatments on the Horizon for Myasthenia Gravis

Session Chair: *Daniel Drachman, M.D.*, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Strategies for Immunoregulation: Novel Insights from Experimental Myasthenia Gravis

*Matthew N. Meriggioli, M.D.*, University of Illinois

Antisense Treatment for Myasthenia Gravis: Experience with Monarsen2

*Jon Sussman, M.D., Ph.D., FRCP*, Greater Manchester Neuroscience Centre

Myasthenia Gravis Specific Autoantibody Apheresis by the Combined

Use of Immobilised Acetylcholine Receptor Polypeptides

*Socrates Tzartos, Ph.D.*, Hellenic Pasteur Institute

Etanercept in Myasthenia Gravis

*Julie Rowin, M.D.*, University of Illinois at Chicago

Advances in Treatment of Myasthenia and Prospects for Future Therapy

*Daniel Drachman, M.D.*, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

1:00-2:15 PM Conference Luncheon

Sponsored by: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois, Inc., a chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.

2:15-3:15 PM Session IX: Recent Developments

(Selected Speakers from Submitted Abstracts)

Session Chairs: *Henry J. Kaminski, M.D.*, Saint Louis University School of Medicine; *Richard Barohn, M.D.*, University of Kansas Medical Center

3:15-3:45 PM Intermission

3:45-5:15 PM Panel Discussion: Thymectomy for Myasthenia Gravis

Session Chair: *Gil Wolfe, M.D.*, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Thymectomy for Non-Thymomatous Myasthenia Gravis – Analysis of Controversies and Results

*Josh Sonett, M.D.*, Columbia University

Robotic-Assisted Thymectomy

*Jens C. Rückert, M.D., Ph.D.*, Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Extended Transcervical Thymectomy for Myasthenia Gravis

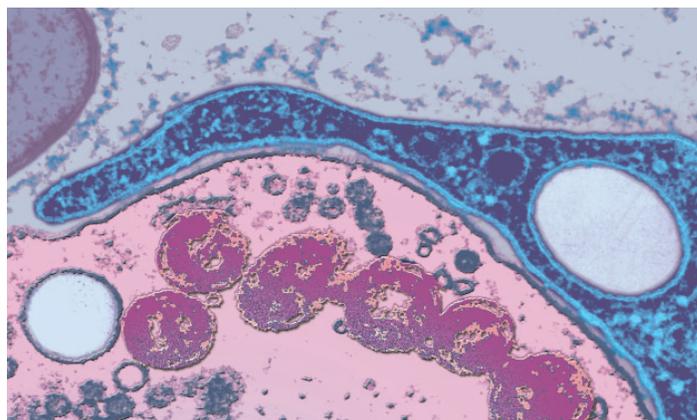
*Joseph B. Shrager, M.D.*, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Status of the Thymectomy Trial for Non-thymomatous Myasthenia Gravis Patients Receiving Prednisone

*John Newsom-Davis, M.D.*, University of Oxford

5:15-5:30 PM Closing Remarks

*Henry J. Kaminski, M.D. and Richard Barohn, M.D.*, Conference Organizers



## CONFERENCE SPECIFICS

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Renaissance Chicago Hotel (Downtown)  
1 West Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel. 1.800.228.9290 or 1.800.HOTELS.1  
Online Reservations:  
www.renaissancechicagodowntown.com  
Group Code: myamyaa

The hotel is located at the corner of State Street and Wacker Drive, at the edge of "The Loop" in the heart of downtown Chicago. It is located blocks from Millennium Park, Macy's (the original Marshall Fields) on State Street, and the shops along the Magnificent Mile.

To obtain the discounted hotel rate of \$219 single/double occupancy, plus tax per night, please contact reservations indicating that you are attending the Myasthenia Gravis Conference. **Reservation Deadline: April 23, 2007.** Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. Cancellations must be received by 4pm day of arrival or you will incur a one night cancellation fee. Check-in time: 3:00 PM; Check-out time: 12:00 Noon.

### GROUND TRAVEL & DIRECTIONS

The Renaissance Chicago Hotel (Downtown) is 18 miles (allow 45-60 minutes) from Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The following modes of transportation are available from the airport: airport shuttle service (\$26), subway (\$2), and taxi (\$40). For Continental Airport Express (shuttle service) information and reservations, go to [www.airportexpress.com](http://www.airportexpress.com) or call 1.800.654.7871 or 1.888.2THEVAN. Shuttle tickets may also be purchased in the baggage claim area. The CTA subway (State & Lake stop) is 2 blocks from the hotel. If driving, the hotel parking fee is \$39 daily. For directions, go to the map and transportation link at [www.renaissancechicagodowntown.com](http://www.renaissancechicagodowntown.com).

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite you to submit an abstract for participation in a Poster Session. **Deadline for abstract submission: March 14, 2007.** Subject to editorial review, selected presenters will be requested to submit a short manuscript for publication in the conference proceedings. To receive complete instructions for abstract submission, email to: [MGconf@nyas.org](mailto:MGconf@nyas.org). Type the words **Abstract Information** in the subject line. (You do not need to type a message.) Instructions will be forwarded automatically. Any questions, telephone 1.212.298.8617.

### FELLOWSHIPS

A limited number of fellowships in the form of travel stipends will be awarded to qualified junior investigators. Individuals applying for a fellowship will be expected to author a poster presentation (sole or first authorship is not required). Applicants must provide an original fellowship request letter on letterhead (university department, organization, etc.) with a counter signature from a department chair or supervisor verifying student, postdoc, or fellow status. Mail this original letter to: The New York Academy of Sciences, c/o Kara-Leigh Dockery, 7 World Trade Center, 250 Greenwich Street, 40th floor, New York, NY 10007-2140 for receipt by: **March 14, 2007. (Email and fax letters will not be accepted.)**

Qualified women and minority scientists are encouraged to apply. For more details on NYAS Conference Minority Fellowships please visit: [www.nyas.org/MGconf](http://www.nyas.org/MGconf).

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

Renaissance Chicago Hotel  
One West Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel. 1.312.372.7200  
Fax: 1.312.372.0093

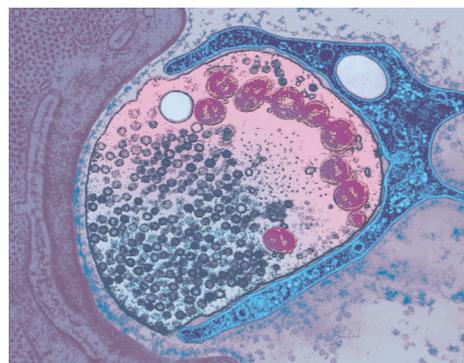
### WAYS TO REGISTER

Online: <http://www.nyas.org/MGconf>  
Fax: 212.298.3631  
Mail: The New York Academy of Sciences  
Programs Department - MG  
7 World Trade Center  
250 Greenwich Street, 40th floor  
New York, NY 10007-2140

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Programs Department  
7 World Trade Center  
250 Greenwich Street, 40th floor  
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**ACCREDITATION STATEMENT** This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of Blackwell Futura Media Services, The New York Academy of Sciences, and the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc. Blackwell Futura Media Services is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.



**DESIGNATION STATEMENT** Blackwell Futura Media Services designates this educational activity for a maximum of 23.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

# REGISTRATION FORM – *The 11th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders*

**MAY 13-16, 2007**

Please type or print legibly below or register on-line at <http://www.nyas.org/MGconf>  
Name

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- 3 Nonmember (corporate)
- 4 Student/Postdoc/Fellow (NYAS member)
- 5 Student/Postdoc/Fellow (nonmember)

Enclosed is my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**If paying by credit card, fax this form to: 212.298.3631 or register online at [www.nyas.org/MGconf](http://www.nyas.org/MGconf)**

## REGISTRATION FEES & CATEGORIES

### Fees Include:

- One Year Introductory NYAS Membership for Nonmembers
- Proceedings Published in a Volume of the *Annals of The New York Academy of Sciences*
- Welcome Reception, Daily Continental Breakfast, Coffee Breaks, Luncheons & Poster Sessions
- Dinner Reception Hosted by MGFA

CATEGORY	By April 13	After April 13	On-Site
1. NYAS/MSAB/NAB Member	\$500	\$550	\$600
2. Nonmember (not-for-profit/academia)	\$650	\$700	\$750
3. Nonmember (corporate)	\$800	\$850	\$900
4. Student/Postdoc/Fellow (NYAS member)	\$300	\$325	\$350
5. Student/Postdoc/Fellow (nonmember)	\$300	\$325	\$350

Register early. If you have special needs, please let us know if you require assistance during this meeting.

### Cancellations

Written requests for refunds postmarked by **April 13, 2007** will be issued minus an administrative fee of \$50. *Absolutely no refunds will be honored after this date.*

