The 11th International Conference on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders

May 13-16, 2007
Renaissance Chicago Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

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.
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Kronus
NIH Office of Rare Diseases
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 Teichter, 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., Ph.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

3:30-7:00 PM   Poster Session II
Sponsored by: Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.
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 Vail 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. Shragger, 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 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.

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. 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.

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

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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)™. 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
Dr. Mr. Ms. (Circle one) First Last Degree

Affiliation/Organization ________________________________

Title/Position ________________________________

Mailing Address
Indicate if this is your office address ☐ or home address ☐

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Address ________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _____________

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Payment enclosed is by:
☐ U.S. Bank Check or International Money Order made payable to: The New York Academy of Sciences (bank transfers are not accepted)

☐ Credit Card (specify)
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Cardholder Signature: __________________________

I wish to register as
(Circle category number)
1 NYAS/MSAB/NAB Member
2 Nonmember (not-for-profit/academia)
3 Nonmember (corporate)
4 Student/Postdoc/Fellow (NYAS member)
5 Student/Postdoc/Fellow (nonmember)

Enclosed is my payment of $ __________________________

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.

Include your payment when mailing to:
The New York Academy of Sciences
Programs Department - MG
7 World Trade Center
250 Greenwich Street, 40th floor
New York, NY 10007-2140

If paying by credit card, fax this form to: 212.298.3631 or register online at www.nyas.org/MGconf