

WMS2021 Virtual Congress

20–24 September



#WMS2021

Summary Programme

All times are in British Summer Time (BST).

Monday, 20 September 2021 INDUSTRY DAY

12:50–13:00 President's Introduction

13:00–23:00 WMS 2021 Parallel Industry Symposia

E-Posters available to view on demand and Exhibition area open

Tuesday, 21 September 2021 PRE-CONGRESS TEACHING COURSE

15:00–22:00 Pre-Congress Teaching Course Part 1 and Part 2 (separate registration required)

Congress Industry Symposia, E-Posters available to view on demand and Exhibition area open

Wednesday, 22 September 2021 CONGRESS DAY 1

14:00–14:15 President's Welcome

14:15–15:00 **Opening lecture – Why AI will be the Foundation of 21st Century Medicine**

Topic: The use of machine learning/AI/applying smart tech to the NM field
(1 x 30 mins pre-recorded presentation + 15 mins live Q&A)

Speaker: Brendan Frey

Moderator: Jim Dowling

Moderator: Kim Amburgey

15:00–15:30 Comfort break

15:30–16:30 **Debate 1 – Pre-clinical research – Are large animal models necessary in translational research?**
(60 min = 5 min moderator intro + 2 x 15 mins per person live debate + 25 mins Q&A/interaction with audience)

Speakers: Caroline Le Guiner, Annemieke Aartsma-Rus

Moderator: Alan Beggs

Moderator: Vandana Gupta

16:30–17:00 Comfort break

Wednesday, 22 September 2021 CONGRESS DAY 1

17:00–18:00	<p>Debate 2 – (Wo)Man or machine? Who should evaluate patients in clinical trials? (60 min = 5 min moderator intro + 2 x 15 mins per person live debate + 25 mins Q&A/interaction with audience)</p> <p><i>Speakers: Lindsay Alfano, Laurent Servais</i> <i>Moderator: Jean-Yves Hogrel</i> <i>Moderator: Damien Bachasson</i></p>
18:00–18:30	Comfort break
18:30–19:30	<p>Debate 3 – Should neuromuscular diseases be reduced through pre-conception carrier testing? (60min = 5 min moderator intro + 2 x 15 mins per person live debate + 25 mins Q&A/interaction with audience)</p> <p><i>Speakers: Yoram Nevo, Damjan Osredkar</i> <i>Moderator: Nathalie Goemans</i> <i>Moderator: Liesbeth De Waele</i></p>
19:30–19:45	Comfort break
19:45–20:45	Live Fun Social Hour

Thursday, 23 September 2021 CONGRESS DAY 2

14:00–15:00	<p>Clinical trial highlights – Selected oral presentations 1 (O.1-4) (4 x 10 mins consecutive pre-recorded presentations + 20 mins live Q&A)</p> <p><i>In the field of neuromuscular disorders there is a continuously growing knowledge of genetic background, pathophysiology, molecular mechanisms, and therapeutic options. Translational medicine, from basic science to international clinical trials in humans are necessary to bring therapeutic options to patients around the world. In this session international trials for gene therapy (replacement and regulation of transcription), as well as pharmacotherapy, will be introduced and interim analyses will be published.</i></p> <p><i>Moderators: Ulrike Schara-Schmidt & Giovanni Baranello</i></p>
15:00–15:30	Clinical trial highlights breakout session
15:30–16:30	<p>Clinical research - Selected oral presentations 2 (O.5-8) (4 x 10 mins consecutive pre-recorded presentations + 20 mins live Q&A)</p> <p><i>Neuromuscular translational research is a continuing evolving field.</i></p> <p><i>In this session, the importance of well-characterised natural history, including genotype-phenotype correlations and outcome measures for rare neuromuscular conditions will be discussed as a fundamental milestone to design clinical trials aiming to bring therapeutic options to patients.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore in this session it will be discussed how improving the knowledge of genetics, pathophysiology and molecular mechanisms or rare neuromuscular conditions can play a role in preventing mortality and morbidity through modifying guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>Moderators: Jordi Dias & Mariacristina Scoto</i></p>
16:30–17:00	Clinical research breakout session
16:30–18:30	<p>Poster Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autoimmune & Inflammatory NMD (EP.1-18) COVID-19 and neuromuscular diseases (EP.19-24) Congenital myopathies - Centronuclear myopathies (EP.25-31) Congenital myopathies - Nemaline myopathies (EP.32-43) Congenital myopathies (EP.44-53) Collagen related muscle diseases (EP.54-63) Congenital muscular dystrophies (EP.64-70) Distal myopathies (EP.71-76)

Thursday, 23 September 2021 CONGRESS DAY 2

<p>16:30–18:30</p>	<p>Poster Sessions</p> <p>DMD - animal models (EP.77-96) DMD - clinical care (EP.97-111) DMD / BMD - genetics (EP.112-117) DMD / BMD - outcome measures (EP.118-132) DMD - brain (EP.133-138) DMD - treatment (EP.139-152) DMD - biomarkers (EP.153-161) FSHD (EP.162-173) LGMD (EP.174-195) Pompe disease (EP.196-203) Metabolic myopathies (EP.204-210) Mitochondrial diseases (EP.211-218) Channelopathies and related disorders (EP.220-228) Myotonic dystrophy (EP.229-238) Motor neuron disorders and neuropathies (EP.239-247b) SMA clinical data (EP.248-254a) SMA outcome measures and registries (EP.255-267) SMA - treatment (EP.268-294) Neuromuscular junction related disorders (EP.295-300) New genes and diseases (EP.301-305) New insights into cellular or muscle function (EP.306-311) Application of next generation technologies (EP.312-321) Outcome measures (EP.322-327) Imaging (EP.328-339) Registries and care of NMD (EP.340-347) Other NMDs (EP.348-362) Late Breaking Posters - (LBP 1-25)</p>
<p>18:30–19:30</p>	<p>New genes, new techniques in neuromuscular disorders - Selected oral presentations 3 (O.9-12)</p> <p>(4 x 10 mins consecutive pre-recorded presentations + 20 mins live Q&A)</p> <p><i>Investigators report a new monogenic cause for childhood-onset ALS with associated therapeutic implications, a novel chaperonopathy manifesting as a myopathy with early respiratory failure, the use of tissue and single cell transcriptomics for studying differential gene expression across muscles, and the strengths and weaknesses of RNA sequencing for evaluating variants in titin.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Reghan Foley & Bernard Brais</p>
<p>19:30–20:00</p>	<p>New genes, new techniques in neuromuscular disorders breakout session</p>
<p>20:00–21:00</p>	<p>Pre-clinical developments in neuromuscular disorders - Selected oral presentations 4 (O.13-16)</p> <p>(4 x 10 mins consecutive pre-recorded presentations + 20 mins live Q&A)</p> <p><i>This is a very exciting time for development of therapy for neuromuscular disorders, which makes this session very interesting. Generation of pre-clinical data in relevant models of diseases is very valuable and is indicating which avenues some therapy will take before going to clinic. This year, this session is highlighting four talks: one investigating overexpression of a genetic modifier (<i>jagged1</i>) to treat DMD, one looking at inhibiting RhoA pathway to diminish fibrosis in DMD, one exploring a low dose of AAV to treat Fukutin-related-protein deficiencies and finally a talk reporting the utilization of allele specific gene editing to treat COL6A1 associated disorders.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Nicolas Wein & Adjali Oumeya</p>
<p>21:00–21:30</p>	<p>Pre-clinical developments in neuromuscular disorders breakout session</p>

Friday, 24 September 2021 CONGRESS DAY 3

13:30–14:30	General Assembly (WMS Member congress delegates only)
15:00–15:45	Poster Highlights (PH 1-6) (6 x 5 mins consecutive pre-recorded presentations + 15 mins live Q&A) <i>This is one of the most popular sessions of the annual WMS Congress. The session moderators, with support from the programme committee, select 6 posters for short oral presentations that they feel are of particular interest to the neuromuscular community. The poster may address controversial or polarising topics or topics that aren't regularly covered in plenary lectures, but are nevertheless scientifically sound and relevant.</i> Moderators: Johann Böhm & Jantima Tanboon
15:45–16:15	Poster highlights breakout session
16:15–17:00	Late Breaking News (LBO 1-3) (3 x 10 mins consecutive pre-recorded presentations + 15 mins live Q&A) <i>One of the most exciting sessions of the annual WMS Congress, providing a platform for still unpublished, high quality and high impact research findings that are of great interest to all congress participants. Presentations often focus on new disease causes, pathomechanisms and therapies.</i> Moderators: Gisèle Bonne & Carsten Bönnemann
17:00–18:00	Prize Presentations: Johann Böhm Close of Congress: Volker Straub Introduce 2022 and presentation of flag: Jim Dowling and Jiri Vajsar