

Speakers

Dr. M. Isabel Leite, Consultant Neurologist and Clinician Postdoctoral Researcher, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

After qualifying as Consultant in Portugal, Dr Leite came to Oxford and worked with Prof. Angela Vincent and Dr Jackie Palace in the original groundbreaking research, which led to the discovery of the blood marker and disease mechanism for NMO 10 years ago, as well as neuroimmunological research into other rare conditions and MS.



In 2008 on the basis of the new discoveries in NMO, the NHS National Commissioning Group set up new joint Specialist NMO Centres at John Radcliffe Oxford and Walton Centre Liverpool. Dr Leite has worked with Dr Jackie Palace and Dr Anu Jacob to treat NMO and TM patients and continue research into NMO, recurrent TM and MS. JR Neuroscience is a multidisciplinary team, several of whom are attending our Conference today as our guests, including researchers and therapists.

Dr Adam Kaplin, Clinician-Researcher in Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Maryland USA

Dr. Kaplin graduated from Yale University before receiving his MD and PhD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He focuses his research on immune-mediated mechanisms of clinical depression and cognitive impairment in CNS autoimmune diseases, such as Multiple Sclerosis and Transverse Myelitis. He is the principal psychiatric consultant to the Johns Hopkins MS and TM Centers of Excellence.



Dr. Kaplin is also the inventor and co-developer of Mood247.com, an eHealth mood-tracking technology that also functions as an electronic patient diary and a means for individuals to coordinate care among their health care providers.

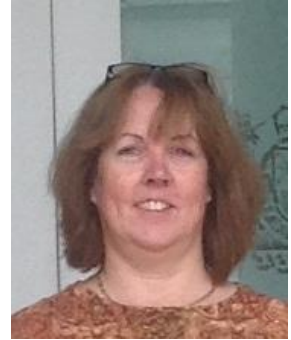
Dr. Kaplin is the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Montel Williams MS Foundation and a Medical Advisor to the Cody Unser First Step Foundation (CUFSF), the Transverse Myelitis Association (TMA), Johns Hopkins Project RESTORE, and the Nancy Davis MS Foundation. He is also the CEO and President of Altimmune, a start-up biotechnology company specializing in developing aggressive new therapies to put autoimmune diseases into long-term remission.

Dr Allison Graham, Consultant Physician, National Spinal Injury Centre, Stoke Mandeville

Dr Graham graduated in medicine (MBChB) at the University of Glasgow. She specialises in spinal cord injury especially of adolescents and women.

Dr Graham is the senior physician at the world-famous Stoke Mandeville Hospital for spinal cord injuries. She has treated many people with TM at NSIC especially younger TMers. Dr Graham says “Probably because of my physician background, I do see as many people with non traumatic spinal impairment as those with traumatic injuries.”

Dr Graham’s research interest is long term health after spinal cord injury.



Denise Fitzgerald PhD, Lecturer in Immunology and Principal Investigator, Centre for Infection and Immunity, Queen’s University, Belfast

Dr Fitzgerald did her BSc in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics at University College Dublin (1996-2000) and went on to pursue her PhD in Immunology there. During her PhD, Denise had Transverse Myelitis in 2001 and developed a keen interest in demyelinating diseases of the CNS.

In 2004 she moved to Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia USA to pursue postdoctoral training in neuroimmunology research. Denise was awarded a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship from the US National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which supported her commitment to research on demyelinating diseases.

In 2009, Denise moved to Queen’s University Belfast to start her own independent neuroimmunology research group within the Centre for Infection and Immunity, where she is currently a Lecturer in Immunology. Her research focuses on immune-mediated pathogenesis of demyelinating diseases and regenerative neuroimmunology.

