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.
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

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., 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

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
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

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
We invite you to submit an abstract for
participation in a Poster Session.  Deadline
Subject to editorial review, selected presen-
ters will be requested to submit a short
manuscript for publication in the conference
proceedings.  To receive complete instruc-
tions 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 quali-
ﬁed junior investigators.  Individuals apply-
ing 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, organi-
zation, 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
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The New York Academy of Sciences, and the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.  Blackwell Futura Media Services
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