

**POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
2007-2026**

2026 Awardees

Fellow:	Silvia Corbisiero, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Mapping the meningeal immune landscape in Multiple Sclerosis: a study of T and B cell interactions in post-mortem tissue.</i>
Institution:	Dept. Brain Sciences, Division Neuroscience at Imperial College London London, England
Mentor:	Prof Roberta Magliozzi
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Hanna Frank, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Health care use before multiple sclerosis onset and subsequent disability progression: A population based study</i>
Institution:	Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Bergen Bergen, Norway
Mentor:	Prof Øivind Torkildsen
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Anna Stöltling, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Decoding paramagnetic rim lesion heterogeneity in multiple sclerosis using postmortem MRI and spatial transcriptomics</i>
Institution:	Department of Biomedical Sciences at Humanitas University Milan, Italy
Mentor:	Prof Martina Absinta
Duration:	2 years

2025 Awardees

Fellow:	Valentina Camera, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Characterising Clinical, Radiological, and Biological Profiles in MOGAD/MS Overlap Syndrome: a Multicentre Observational Study</i>
Institution:	Medical University of Vienna, Department of Neurology Vienna, Austria
Mentor:	Prof Paulus Rommer
Duration:	2 years

Fellow:	Birgit Helmlinger, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Decoding Upper versus Lower Limb Impairment in MS</i>
Institution:	Amsterdam UMC, Department of Anatomy and Neurosciences Amsterdam, Netherlands
Mentor:	Prof Menno Schoonheim
Duration:	2 years

Fellow:	Miguel Leal Rato, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Real world evidence for treatment strategies in double seronegative neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders</i>
Institution:	Neurological Hospital of Lyon – Hospices Civils de Lyon French Referral Center for Rare Inflammatory Disorders of the Central Nervous System (MIRCEM) Lyon, France
Mentor:	Prof Romain Marignier
Duration:	2 years

2024 Awardees

Fellow:	Zuhal Abasiyanik, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Comprehensive multidimensional assessment of gait adaptability as a marker of subtle gait deficits in persons multiple sclerosis with no to mild disability</i>
Institution:	Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences, REVAL research group, Hasselt University Hasselt, Belgium
Mentor:	Prof Dr Peter Feys
Duration:	2 years

Fellow:	Estibaliz Maudes, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Deciphering B cell dynamics in Multiple Sclerosis for precision immunotherapy</i>
Institution:	Institut für Neuropathologie, University of Göttingen Göttingen, Germany
Mentor:	Prof Martin S. Weber
Duration:	2 years

Fellow:	Wei Yeh, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody-associated disease: optimising treatment strategy and outcomes</i>
Institution:	University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford, UK
Mentor:	Prof Jacqueline Palace
Duration:	1 year

2023 Awardees

Fellow:	Federico Ansaloni, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Exploring the role of endogenous retroviruses and viral infection of oligodendroglia in multiple sclerosis at single-cell resolution</i>
Institution:	Karolinska Institutet Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor:	Dr Gonçalo Castelo-Branco
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Giuseppe Pontillo, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Towards individualized clinical predictions in Multiple Sclerosis: a data-driven predictome linking neuroimaging to outcomes</i>
Institution:	Amsterdam UMC, the Netherlands
Mentor:	Prof Frederik Barkhof & Dr. Menno Schoonheim
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Margareta Clarke, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Predicting chronic activity in multiple sclerosis lesions from baseline MRI</i>
Institution:	University of Nottingham (UK)
Mentor:	Dr Nikos Evangelou
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Rocio Bravo Miana, MD
Research Topic:	<i>Central nervous system (CNS)-derived extracellular vesicles: specific circulating biomarkers and a promising window into the CNS of multiple sclerosis patients</i>
Institution:	Biodonostia Health Research Institute San Sebastian, Spain
Mentor:	Dr David Otaegui
Duration:	2 year

2022 Awardees

Fellow:	Tom Fuchs, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Redefining Progressive MS</i>
Institution:	Amsterdam UMC, the Netherlands
Mentor:	Dr Menno Schoonheim
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Eduardo Fernandez, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Illuminating axon conduction and cortical circuit functioning during myelin repair</i>
Institution:	INSERM Paris, France
Mentor:	Dr Maria Cecilia Angulo
Duration:	2 years

Fellow: **Alberto Calvi, PhD**
Research Topic: *Integration of MRI metrics and biological markers of chronic activity to predict*
Institution: Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Fundació Clínic per a la Recerca Biomèdica, Spain
Mentor: Dr Sara Llufríu
Duration: 2 years

2021 Awardees

Fellow: **Parisa Hariri, PhD**
Research Topic: *Predictors of disease progression in Multiple Sclerosis*
Institution: Turku PET Centre, Turku University Hospital and University of Turku, Finland
Mentor: Dr Laura Airas
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Sarah Guimbal, PhD**
Research Topic: *Discovering novel targets and their mechanisms in an innovative in vitro model of human blood-brain barrier as part of Multiple Sclerosis*
Institution: University of Bern, Switzerland
Mentor: Prof Britta Engelhardt
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Vasiliki Pantazou, PhD**
Research Topic: *Modulation of microglial interaction with the node of Ranvier by adaptive immune cues*
Institution: Hôpitaux Universitaires Pitié Salpêtrière | Paris, France
Mentor: Dr Anne Desmazières
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Carmen Picon, MD**
Research Topic: *Unveiling inflammatory mechanisms underpinning selective neuronal vulnerability in Multiple Sclerosis*
Institution: University of Geneva, Switzerland
Mentor: Dr Doron Merkle
Duration: 2 year

2020 Awardees

Fellow: **Alexandra Nicaise, PhD**
Research Topic: *Modeling Cellular Senescence in Progressive Multiple Sclerosis with Neural Stem Cells and Animal Disease Models*
Institution: Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge, UK
Mentor: Prof Stefano Pluchino
Duration: 2 years

ECTRIMS Fellowship Programmes

Fellow: **Leslie Kirby, PhD**
Research Topic: *An investigation into the interplay of inflammatory oligodendrocyte progenitor cells and B-lineage cells in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis*
Institution: Karolinska Institutet | Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor: Dr Gonçalo Castelo-Branco
Duration: 2 years

2018 Awardees

Fellow: **Alerie Guzman de la Fuente, PhD**
Research Topic: *Does remyelination fail due to an immune-mediated depletion of ageing Central Nervous System progenitor cells?*
Institution: Queen's Mary University, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences - Centre for Experimental Medicine | Belfast, UK
Mentor: Prof Denise Fitzgerald, MD, PhD
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Iris Kleerekoper, MD**
Research Topic: *Minimally invasive testing of mitochondrial function to predict progressive neurodegeneration in acute multiple sclerosis associated optic neuritis*
Institution: Queen Square MS Centre, UCL Institute of Neurology & Moorfields Eye Hospital London, UK
Mentor: Dr Anand Trip & Dr Axel Petzold
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Elena Morandi, PhD**
Research Topic: *Investigation of the impact of Multiple Sclerosis associated genetic variant CD226 Gly307Ser on T cell functions*
Institution: INSERM - Université Toulouse III, CHU Purpan, France
Mentor: Abdelhadi Saoudi, PhD
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Hideaki Nishihara, MD, PhD**
Research Topic: *Advancing human stem cell derived in vitro models of the human blood-brain barrier to study the migration of human immune cells into the central nervous system*
Institution: Theodor Kocher Institute | Bern, Switzerland
Mentor: Prof Britta Engelhardt
Duration: 2 years

2017 Awardees

Fellow:	Gloria Castellazzi, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Developing a clinical decision system based on characterising shared and specific functional features of MS subtypes</i>
Institution:	UCL Institute of Neurology, Queen Square MS Centre London, UK
Mentor:	Prof Claudia Gandini Wheeler-Kingshott
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Joanna Marczyńska, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Mechanisms suppressing autoimmune responses in the central nervous system</i>
Institution:	University of Southern Denmark, Odense
Mentor:	Prof Trevor Owens
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Kyla McKay, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>The causes and consequences of paediatric multiple sclerosis: A population based study</i>
Institution:	Karolinska Institutet Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor:	Prof Jan Hillert
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Emanuela Oldoni, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Multiple sclerosis heterogeneity: patient-to-patient variation in cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers</i>
Institution:	KU Leuven, Department of Neurosciences, Belgium
Mentor:	Prof An Goris
Duration:	2 years

2016 Awardees

Fellow:	Mansih Malviya, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Molecular engineering of Tregs expressing recombinant TCR: study of their therapeutics effects in animal models of MS</i>
Institution:	INSERM, Center of Pathophysiology of Toulouse (CPTP), France
Mentor:	Prof Roland Liblau
Duration:	2 years
Fellow:	Sabah Mozafari, PhD
Research Topic:	<i>Analysis of cellular behaviour of skin-derived myelin-producing human cells in vitro and in vivo after transplantation in the demyelinated central nervous system</i>
Institution:	INSERM U1127, Sorbonne Université Paris, France
Mentor:	Prof Anne Baron-Van Evercooren
Duration:	2 years

Fellow: Bieke Broux, PhD
Research Topic: The unexplored role of interleukin-24 in MS
Institution: Hasselt University, Biomedical Research Institute | Diepenbeek, Belgium
Mentor: Prof Niels Hellings
Duration: 2 years

2015 Awardees

Fellow: Carmen Tur, MD, PhD
Research Topic: What is the role of brain structural and functional connectivity in clinically isolated syndrome?
Institution: UCL Institute of Neurology, Queen Square MS Centre | London, UK
Mentor: Prof Olga Ciccarelli & Prof. Alan Thompson
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: Ana Luisa Falcao, PhD
Research Topic: Epigenetic states underlying oligodendrocyte precursor differentiation in MS
Institution: Karolinska Institute, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics
Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor: Dr Gonçalo Caselo-Branco
Duration: 2 years

2013 Awardees

Fellow: Armelle Klopstein, PhD
Research Topic: Molecular mechanisms and cellular pathways involved in the migration of CD8+ T cell subsets across the BBB in vitro and in vivo
Institution: Theodor Kocher Institute | Bern, Switzerland
Mentor: Prof Britta Engelhardt
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: Fanny Chalmin, PhD
Research Topic: Interleukin-27 drives TH17-like cell generation in the absence of signal transducers and activators of transcription (STAT)1
Institution: University Hospital | Geneva, Switzerland
Mentor: Dr Caroline Pot
Duration: 1 year

2012 Awardees

Fellow: **Benedetta Bodini**, MD, PhD
Research Topic: Exploring demyelination and remyelination in MS through a combination of positron emission tomography and advanced magnetic resonance imaging
Institution: Department of Neuroimaging, King's College London, UK
Mentor: Prof Federico Turkheimer
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Andreia Carvalho**, PhD
Research Topic: Mitochondrial dynamics in Multiple Sclerosis
Institution: VU University Medical Center | Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Mentor: Prof Jan van Horssen
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Androniki Voulgari-Kokota**, PhD
Research Topic: Dissection of the effects of mesenchymal stem cells on glial cells involved in neurogenesis
Institution: Department of Neurology, University of Genova, Italy
Mentor: Prof Antonio Uccelli
Duration: 2 years

2011 Awardee

Fellow: **Aur lie Ruet**, MD, PhD
Research Topic: Relation of grey and white matter damage in MS: comparison between relapsing-remitting secondary and primary progressive patients
Institution: VU University Medical Center | Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Mentor: Dr Hugo Vrenken
Duration: 2 years

2010 Awardees

Fellow: **Anu Kemppinen**, PhD, Master of Science
Research Topic: Somatic mutations in Multiple Sclerosis
Institution: Cambridge University, Neurology Unit, Cambridge, UK
Mentor: Prof Stephen Sawcer
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: **Jens Kuhle**, MD
Research Topic: Multivariate clinically isolated syndrome risk factor study - towards a Multiple Sclerosis risk calculator
Institution: Center of Neuroscience and Trauma, The Royal London Hospital | London, UK
Mentor: Prof Gavin Giovannoni
Duration: 2 years

ECTRIMS Fellowship Programmes

Fellow: Nicolas Molnarfi, PhD
Research Topic: Role of B-cell-derived transforming growth factor (TGF)-beta1 expression in central nervous system (CNS) auto immunity
Institution: University Hospital Geneva, Switzerland
Mentor: Prof Patrice Lalive
Duration: 2 years

2009 Awardees

Fellow: Oriane Cedile, PhD
Research Topic: Chemokines in regulation of autoimmune T-cell development and response in EAE
Institution: Medical Biotechnology Center, University of Southern Denmark, Odense
Mentor: Prof Trevor Owens
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: Clemens Warnke, MD
Research Topic: Impact of neutralising antibodies against recombinant interferon beta on viral immunosurveillance by inhibition of endogenous interferon
Institution: Department of Clinical Neuroscience Center for Molecular Medicine Karolinska Institutet | Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor: Prof Jan Hillert & Prof. Anna Fogdell-Hahn
Duration: 2 years

2008 Awardees

Fellow: Camilla Realì, PhD
Research Topic: Mechanisms of demyelination and neurodegeneration in Multiple Sclerosis
Institution: Department of Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience Division of Neuroscience Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital | London, UK
Mentor: Prof Richard Reynolds
Duration: 1 year

Fellow: Adi Vaknin-Dembinsky, MD, PhD
Research Topic: Transplantation of autologous human bone-derived mesenchymal stem cells in patients with MS: clinical, neuroradiological and immunological follow-up
Institution: MS Center, Department of Neurology, Hadassah Ein-Kerem University Hospital Jerusalem, Israel
Mentor: Prof Demitrios Karussis
Duration: 2 years

2007 Awardees

Fellow: Sven Jarius, MD
Research Topic: Antibodies to aquaporin-4 in neuromyelitis optica (NMO)
Institution: Division of Neuroimmunology, University of Heidelberg, Germany
Mentor: Prof Brigitte Wildemann
Duration: 2 years

Fellow: Marcin Mycko, MD, PhD
Research Topic: Heat shock protein 70 as an endogenous adjuvant modulating development of autoimmune demyelination
Institution: Department of Neurology, University of Bochum, Germany
Mentor: Prof Ralf Gold
Duration: 2 years