

FINAL PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
8:00am-9:00am	Registration	
9:00am-9:15am	Acknowledgement of Country Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Pampacos; <i>Chair Elect, MS Australia</i> • Associate Professor Des Graham; <i>Outgoing Chair, MS Australia</i>
9:15am-9:30am	New Developments from MS Australia (Global Prevention Platform Funding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rohan Greenland; <i>CEO, MS Australia</i>
9:30am-9:45am	Opening address	Dr Sarah Flaim; <i>Person living with MS; LEEP member; COO, National Imaging Facility</i>
SESSION 1	KEYNOTE SPEAKERS <i>This session will explore the landscape of MS prevention, highlighting strategies for both primary prevention (reducing exposure to risk factors) and secondary prevention (preventing/delaying the next worst stage).</i> Chair: Professor Michael Barnett	
9:45am-10:30am	International Keynote – Prevention of MS <i>The purpose of the presentation will be to review general core concepts related to disease prevention, our revised understanding of when multiple sclerosis begins, and how we can use this knowledge to develop a framework to prevent MS.</i>	Prof Ruth Ann Marrie <i>Dalhousie University, Canada</i>
10:30am-11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:00am-11:45am	Australian Keynote – Prevention of MS <i>MS is a complex disease that may have multiple drivers of its progression after onset. Consequently, its treatment and/or its cure are very difficult to achieve. Therefore, turning our attention to its prevention may yield significant gains in reducing the overall community burden of MS, as prevention is always better than treatment.</i>	Prof Bruce Taylor <i>University of Tasmania, TAS</i>
SESSION 2	PRIMARY PREVENTION <i>This session will explore innovative approaches to primary prevention in MS, focusing on strategies to reduce risk factors. Speakers will discuss the latest research and its potential to shift the landscape of early intervention.</i> Chair: Dr Heidi Beadnall	
11:45am-12:05pm	EBV and the OCCAMS Study <i>MS often has an early phase with an immune response to environmental factors. We employ artificial intelligence techniques to analyse electronic medical records of people affected by MS to identify this prodrome and develop new diagnostic tools.</i>	Dr Seyhan Yazar & Dr Jennifer Massey <i>University of NSW, NSW</i>
12:05pm-12:25pm	Roles of diet in MS risk and progression <i>This talk will summarise the scientific evidence for diet intake's role in MS onset and progression. This talk will speak to work by myself, my colleagues, and from the literature to address three questions: 1) what kind of diet affects MS; 2) what aspects of MS does diet affect; 3) what mechanisms underly these diet-MS effects?</i>	Dr Steve Simpson-Yap <i>The University of Melbourne, VIC</i>
12:25pm-1:10pm	Lunch	

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SESSION 3	<p>SECONDARY PREVENTION</p> <p><i>This session will highlight the importance of early detection and intervention in MS to prevent or delay disease progression. Speakers will discuss the latest advances in imaging techniques, as well as the role of DMTs in reducing relapses and slowing the accumulation of disability early in the disease course.</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr Justin Garber</p>	
1:10pm-1:30pm	<p>Towards Precision MS Management: Integrating Clinical MRI with AI and Advanced Informatics</p> <p><i>We will share our recent progress in MS-focused AI research, specifically targeting improvements in the productivity and accuracy of MS disease activity detection via MRI. We will also explore how these innovations can enhance patient care by translating quantitative imaging results into meaningful clinical insights and discuss the potential of AI in advancing MS clinical management.</i></p>	Prof Michael Barnett & Dr Chenyu Wang The University of Sydney, NSW
1:30pm-1:50pm	<p>Early Treatment in MS</p> <p><i>Over the decades, the risk of developing severe disability due to MS has considerably decreased. This presentation will provide an overview of how changes in the treatment of MS have contributed to this improved prognosis. It will discuss the implications for contemporary treatment algorithms.</i></p>	Prof Tomas Kalincik The University of Melbourne, VIC
SESSION 4	<p>TERTIARY PREVENTION</p> <p><i>This session will focus on managing symptoms and enhancing the quality of life for people living with MS. Speakers will discuss the latest research on addressing pain and fatigue, highlighting potential strategies to improve overall wellbeing.</i></p> <p>Chair: Associate Professor Milena Gandy</p>	
1:50pm-2:10pm	<p>Fatigue In Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis Epstein-Barr Virus Treatment Trial (FIRMS EBV)</p> <p><i>It is hypothesised that chronic Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) infection could contribute to fatigue in MS. This talk will introduce a forthcoming, multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 16-week, phase III trial of two re-purposed drug treatments with anti-EBV activity, tenofovir alafenamide and spironolactone, to assess whether targeting EBV helps fatigue in people with MS (FIRMS EBV trial).</i></p>	Assoc Prof Todd Hardy The University of Sydney, NSW
2:10pm-2:30pm	<p>Pain in MS</p> <p><i>This presentation will discuss the findings of research conducted as part of the Australian MS Longitudinal Study on the prevalence and features of individual pain types, the perceived effectiveness of pain treatments, and the identification of pain sub-populations.</i></p>	Prof Ingrid van der Mei University of Tasmania, TAS
2:30pm-3:00pm	Afternoon Tea	
SESSION 5	PANEL SESSION	Chair: George Pampacos
3:00pm-3:45pm	<p>Panel discussion: Emerging Research and Clinical Trials Shaping the Future of MS Prevention and Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Ruth Anne Marrie; <i>Dalhousie University, Canada</i> • Prof Bruce Taylor; <i>University of Tasmania, TAS</i> • Dr Sarah Flaim; <i>Person living with MS; LEEP member; COO, National Imaging Facility</i> • Nicolette Murphy; <i>Person living with MS</i>
3:45pm-4:00pm	Symposium close	Rohan Greenland; <i>CEO, MS Australia</i>