

TUESDAY 8TH  
DECEMBER 2020  
09.00 - 16.45

# Encephalitis Conference 2020

ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS  
11 ST ANDREWS PLACE  
REGENT'S PARK,  
LONDON NW1 4LE

[WWW.RCPLONDON.AC.UK](http://WWW.RCPLONDON.AC.UK)

## Conference Highlights:

- **3 Keynote Speakers:**  
**Prof Tom Solomon**  
**Prof Carsten Finke**  
**Dr Benedict Michael**
- **Book reading and interview with Brian Deer**
- **Networking with peers from over 31 countries**
- **Latest research findings:**  
**15 presentations and 23 posters**
- **6 CPD credits**

## Welcome to the Encephalitis Conference 2020!

We are honoured and delighted to welcome you to the Encephalitis Conference 2020. This annual event is, arguably, now the go-to conference on encephalitis. It is dedicated exclusively to encephalitis (infectious and autoimmune aetiologies) and covers epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation in both children and adults.

The Conference is an excellent forum for physicians, scientists, researchers, and healthcare professionals to exchange ideas, knowledge and clinical experience relating to encephalitis. The Conference offers a content-rich and engaging programme. This year we are delighted to welcome our three keynote speakers: Prof Carsten Finke, Prof Tom Solomon and Dr Benedict Michael. We also have in addition 12 oral presentations and 23 poster presentations, as well as a book reading and interview with Brian Deer, author of 'The Doctor Who Fooled the World: Andrew Wakefield's war on vaccines'. At the time of writing delegates from over 31 countries had registered to attend.

We are fortunate to have such great organisations supporting us: ACNR, Aston University - Institute of Health and Neurodevelopment, Brain Infections Global, Guarantors of Brain, Euroimmun, NIHR, Routledge, The Lancet Neurology, University of Liverpool, Valneva. We are very grateful for their support.

Many thanks also to all the speakers, poster presenters and session chairs for their incredible efforts and dedication to improving things for the patients and families often left devastated by this condition, and for sharing their research and knowledge.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the Conference and become actively engaged with our charity's activities!

Dr Ava Easton  
CEO, Encephalitis Society

Dr Nicholas Davies  
Chair of the Encephalitis Society  
Scientific Advisory Panel

## With thanks to our sponsors:

**ACNR**  
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Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic  
Infections at University of Liverpool



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## Accessing the Virtual Conference

When watching the live event online, we recommend using Google Chrome or Firefox as they are the most efficient browsers. It might be convenient to make sure no other devices are in use on your wi-fi connection while you watch the stream. Online television (BBC iPlayer, Netflix, etc.) and online gaming can take the most of your bandwidth, and this might compromise your ability to watch the stream smoothly. If you experience any technical difficulty on the day, please call the technical helpdesk at +44(0)20 3075 2393.

## GG Unique Password

The day before the event you will receive an email from [admin@encephalitis.info](mailto:admin@encephalitis.info) containing the link to watch the event and your unique password to access it. Please check your Junk Mail folder in case you do not find the email in your inbox and use the email address you registered with to log in. If you experience any technical difficulty on the day, please call the technical helpdesk at +44(0)20 3075 2393.

## Posters

The posters are included in the Poster Booklet which was emailed to you before the Conference.

You are strongly encouraged to read the Poster Booklet prior to the day of the Conference and interact with the authors of the Posters using the message facility during breaks. Alternatively please contact the author at the email address provided in the booklet.

## Prizes

There will be prizes (money and book voucher) and certificates for best oral and poster presentations, awarded towards the end of the Conference. Judges are nominated from members of our Scientific Advisory Panel.

## Exhibition

Please visit our amazing partners and sponsors virtual exhibition spaces located on the Conference website.

## Feedback and certificates

To gain your CPD credits certificates, fill in the feedback form on the following link  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EncephalitisConference2020](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EncephalitisConference2020)  
The Conference has been approved by the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom for 6 CPD credits.

## Let's get social

Please share your thoughts on the conference and help us create a Twitterstorm. You would need to tag in our account [@encephalitis](https://twitter.com/encephalitis) and use the hashtag [#EncephalitisConf](https://twitter.com/encephalitis)

# PROGRAMME

09:00 **Registration**

09:30 **Welcome**

**Dr Ava Easton, CEO, Encephalitis Society, UK and  
Dr Nicholas Davies, Chair, Encephalitis Society Scientific  
Advisory Panel; Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London; UK**

**SESSION 1: Chair, Dr Benedict Michael**  
Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of  
Liverpool; The Walton Centre; UK

09:35 SARS-CoV-2 infection: a potential trigger of  
inflammatory neurological disorders  
**Dr Cecilia Zivelonghi, Department  
of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and  
Movement Sciences, University of Verona,  
Italy**

09:45 *Discussion*

09:50 New-onset status epilepticus caused by  
autoimmune encephalitis  
**Dr Yvette Crijnen, Erasmus University  
Medical Center, Rotterdam; The  
Netherlands**

10:00 *Discussion*

10:05 Astrocyte and neuron derived CXCL1 drives  
neutrophil transmigration and blood-brain  
barrier permeability in viral encephalitis  
**Dr Laura Bricio-Moreno, Massachusetts  
General Hospital and Harvard Medical  
School, Boston; USA**

10:15 *Discussion*

## 10:20 **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Looking forward: the next 25 years in  
Infectious Encephalitis Research  
**Prof Tom Solomon, President, Encephalitis  
Society; National Institute for Health  
Research Health Protection Research  
Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections;  
Liverpool Brain Infections Group; Walton  
Centre NHS Foundation Trust and Royal  
Liverpool University Hospital; UK**

10:45 *Discussion*

10:50 **Break/Poster discussion**

**SESSION 2: Chair, Dr Jess Fish**  
Institute of Health & Wellbeing,  
University of Glasgow; UK

11:15 Anti-NMDAR encephalitis in Denmark from  
2009-2018: The Danish National anti-  
NMDAR Encephalitis Cohort  
**Dr Mette Scheller Nissen, Odense  
University Hospital; University of  
Southern Denmark; Denmark**

11:25 *Discussion*

11:30 Clinico-epidemiologic predictors of  
seizures in encephalitis  
**Dr Greta Wood, Royal Liverpool  
University Hospital, Liverpool; UK**

11:40 *Discussion*

11:45 Barriers and facilitators in seeking care for  
persons with Acute Brain Infections  
**Vasundharaa Nair, National Institute  
of Mental Health and Neurosciences,  
Karnataka; India**

11:55 *Discussion*

12:00 Longitudinal brain volume changes in  
patients with NMDA Receptor Encephalitis  
– MRI analysis from the GENERATE  
Network  
**Dr Frederik Bartels, Charité –  
Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Berlin School  
of Mind and Brain; Germany**

12:10 *Discussion*

## 12:15 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1**

Cognitive deficits following NMDAR  
encephalitis: what do MRI studies teach us?  
**Prof Carsten Finke, Charité –  
Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Berlin School  
of Mind and Brain; Germany**

12:40 *Discussion*

12.45 **LUNCH/Poster discussion**

## Session 3: Chair, Dr Nicholas Davies

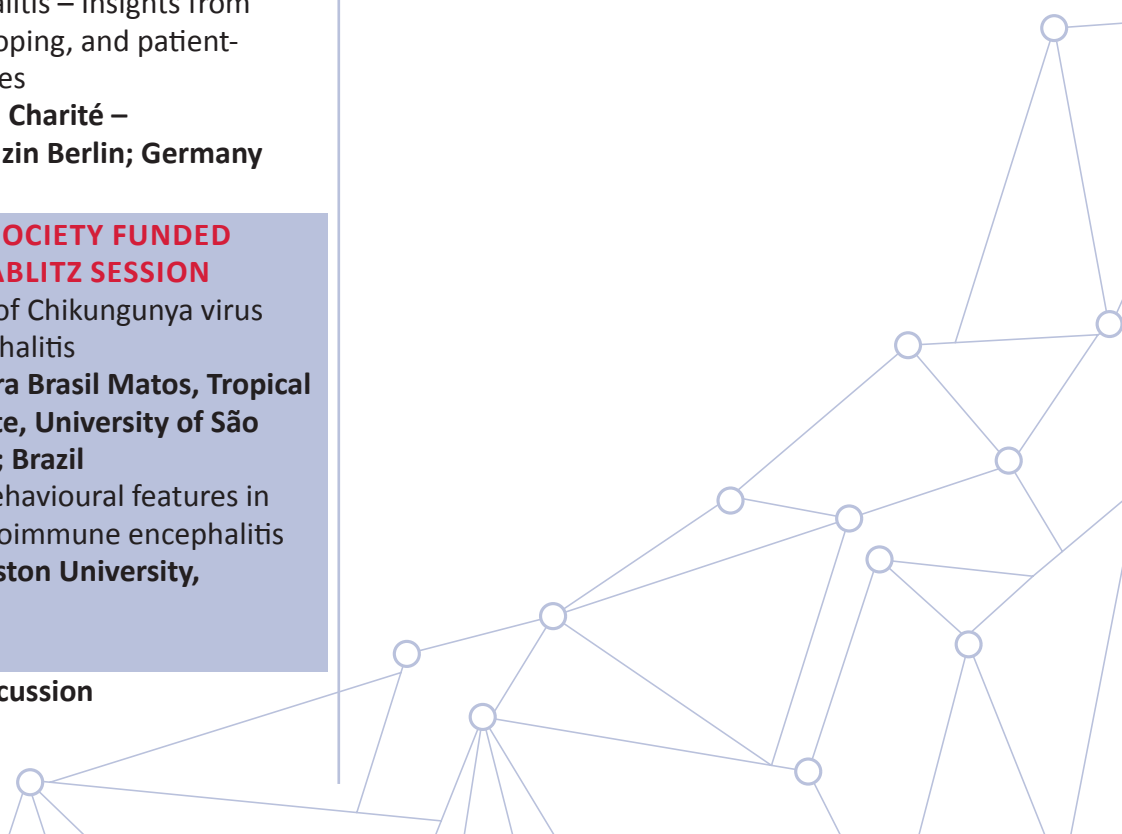
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London; UK

- 14:00 Consequences of encephalitis for young adults and their families: A qualitative enquiry  
**Dr Priya Treasa Thomas, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; India**
- 14:10 *Discussion*
- 14:15 Anti-NMDAR encephalitis: a nationwide Dutch cohort study  
**Dr A E M Bastiaansen, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam; The Netherlands**
- 14:25 *Discussion*
- 14:30 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2**  
Seeing the needle in the haystack AND the woods for the trees – Neurology and SARS-CoV2  
**Dr Benedict Michael, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool; The Walton Centre; UK**
- 14:55 *Discussion*
- 15:00 Factors contributing to subjective quality of life during recovery from anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis – Insights from metacognition, coping, and patient-reported outcomes  
**Josephine Heine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Germany**
- 15:10 *Discussion*
- 15:15 **ENCEPHALITIS SOCIETY FUNDED RESEARCH DATABLITZ SESSION**  
Survival analysis of Chikungunya virus associated encephalitis  
**Dr Aline de Moura Brasil Matos, Tropical Medicine Institute, University of São Paulo, São Paulo; Brazil**  
Emotional and behavioural features in children with autoimmune encephalitis  
**Charly Billaud, Aston University, Birmingham; UK**
- 15:25 *Discussion*
- 15:30 **Break/Poster discussion**

## Session 4: Chair, Dr Ava Easton

CEO, Encephalitis Society

- 15:50 **BOOK READING AND INTERVIEW**  
Dr Ava Easton interviews Brian Deer about his new book: **The Doctor Who Fooled the World: Andrew Wakefield's war on vaccines**
- 16:20 Our Pandemic Year - the Encephalitis Society  
**Phillippa Chapman, Encephalitis Society**
- 16:30 Awards and Prizes for Best Oral and Poster Presentations  
**Dr Ava Easton and Dr Nicholas Davies**
- 16:40 Calls to Action and Close  
**Dr Ava Easton and Dr Nicholas Davies**
- 16:45 **CLOSE**



## Meet our Keynote Speakers and Chairs



**Chair:**

### **Dr Ava Easton**

CEO of the Encephalitis Society, Honorary Fellow, University of Liverpool, UK

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Dr Ava Easton is a researcher and Chief Executive of the Encephalitis Society.

Ava has produced and published many papers, book chapters, and a book (Life After Encephalitis) on various aspects of encephalitis and its after-effects; she also speaks at conferences and lectures around the world on various aspects of encephalitis and its consequences for patients. Her expertise also extends to neuro-narratives, narrative medicine, and patient and public engagement.

Ava is involved in a number of research studies looking into the processes and outcomes of encephalitis and is an Honorary Fellow in the Dept. of Clinical Infection, Microbiology and Immunology, University of Liverpool; Member, World Health Organisation (WHO) COVID-19 Neuro Research Coalition: Chair of Patient and Public Involvement on the taskforce for Acute Clinical Care of Covid Neurology; Member, Steering Committee, COVID\_CNS [The COVID-Clinical Neuroscience Study]; and Patient and Public Engagement Lead; Co-Investigator and Chair of the Patient and Public Involvement Panel – GECO/COVIDNeuro Global Study; Member of the Expert Working Group on the Clinical Management of Human Rabies, Public Health England; Member of the NIHR Global Health Community Engagement and Involvement Virtual Advisory Network; Chair, Patient and Public Involvement Panel; and Steering Committee Member - The Global Health Research Group on Brain Infections (2018 – present).

Ava also acts as a consultant to various Media (Radio and Television) on encephalitis and acquired brain injury (most recently with Hollyoaks, a UK TV show, for a long running storyline on encephalitis).



**Chair:**

### **Dr Nicholas Davies**

Chair of the Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London; UK

**Email:** [Nicholas.Davies@chelwest.nhs.uk](mailto:Nicholas.Davies@chelwest.nhs.uk)

Dr Nicholas Davies is a consultant neurologist who works at Chelsea and Westminster, Charing Cross, and the Royal Marsden Hospitals in London. He is also neurologist to the UK's National Centre for Human Retrovirology.

He has a sub-specialty and research interest in neurological infection. He runs both a weekly neuro-infection and HIV neurology clinic. He has a monthly clinic for neurological problems related to HTLV-1 infection.

He trained in neurology at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, St Mary's Hospital and St George's Hospital (Atkinson Morley's) in London. His PhD, from King's College London, addressed the aetiology and outcome of acute encephalitis in adults. After the completion of specialist training, Dr Davies undertook a fellowship in HIV neurology at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, Australia.





**Chair:**

## **Dr Jess Fish**

Member of the Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel, Institute of Health & Wellbeing, University of Glasgow; UK

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Dr Jessica Fish is a clinical psychologist and lecturer specialising in neuropsychological rehabilitation.

After a first degree in psychology at the University of Exeter, she completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge, on prospective memory in people with acquired brain injury. Then after a period of postdoctoral research, she trained in clinical psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. Since qualifying, Jess has combined clinical work with research and academic practice. Initially this included a clinical post at the Oliver Zangwill Centre for Neuropsychological Rehabilitation and academic secondment to the Institute of Psychiatry. In 2019 she was appointed as lecturer on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, maintaining a clinical appointment with the Wolfson Neuro Rehabilitation Centre at St George's Hospital.

Jess' research interests are broadly within neuropsychology and neuropsychological rehabilitation in adults. More specifically, her work focuses on improving assessment, formulation and rehabilitation for the cognitive and psychological problems that frequently occur after brain injury and that impair everyday functioning, such as those concerned with attention, memory, executive function, emotion regulation and adjustment.



**Keynote speaker:**

## **Prof Carsten Finke**

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Berlin School of Mind and Brain; Germany

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Prof Carsten Finke is Heisenberg Professor for Cognitive Neurology and Consultant Neurologist at the Department of Neurology at Charité Berlin.

He is a faculty member of the Berlin School of Mind and Brain and member of the Einstein Center for Neurosciences Berlin. He is also a founding member and member of the scientific council of the German Network for Research on Autoimmune Encephalitis (GENERATE).

His research focuses on cognitive deficits and associated brain imaging alterations in neurological disorders with a specific interest in neuroimmunological diseases, especially autoimmune encephalitis.

The aim of this research is to identify early (imaging) biomarkers that help to improve the diagnosis and treatment and, ultimately, the outcome of these disorders. His group uses a broad range of methods, including advanced structural and functional MRI studies in humans and animal models, comprehensive neuropsychological assessments as well as immersive and non-immersive virtual reality setups.



**Keynote speaker:**

**Prof Tom Solomon**

President of the Encephalitis Society, National Institute for Health Research-Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections; Liverpool Brain Infections Group; Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Liverpool University Hospital; UK

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Professor Tom Solomon is the Director of the National Institute for Health Research Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections, Head of the Brain Infections Group, Professor of Neurological Science, Honorary Consultant Neurologist, Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Tom studied medicine at Wadham College, Oxford, before undertaking a PhD on central nervous system infections in Vietnam, with a Wellcome Trust Advanced Training Fellowship. He then became a Clinical Lecturer in Neurology, Medical Microbiology and Tropical Medicine at the University of Liverpool, and was awarded a Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellowship. This included two years as a visiting scientist at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. Tom was made a Senior Lecturer in Neurology in Liverpool in 2005, and awarded a Medical Research Council Senior Clinical Fellowship the same year. He became Chair of Neurological Science in 2007, and Head of the newly formed Institute of Infection and Global Health in 2010.

Tom's work on public engagement has included national TV and Radio work, as well as widening participation work with local schools. Raising awareness and charity funding, his Running Mad Professor video on YouTube got nearly 20,000 hits: he won the Guinness World Record for the fastest marathon dressed as a doctor in 2010, and more recently a Guinness World Record for the Largest Human Image of an Organ – the World's Biggest Brain to celebrate the first World Encephalitis Day. Tom is the author of Roald Dahl's Marvellous Medicine which examines Dahl's interest in everything medical and explores some extraordinary areas of medical science.



**Keynote speaker:**

**Dr Benedict Michael**

Vice Chair of the Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel, Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool; The Walton Centre, Liverpool; UK

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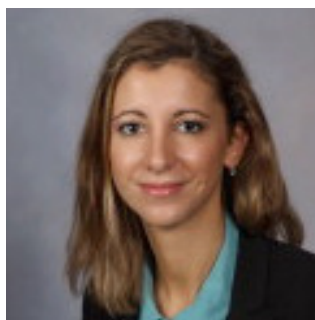
Dr Benedict Michael is a Senior Clinician Scientist Fellow at The NIHR Health Protection Research Unit for Emerging and Zoonotic Infection and an Honorary Consultant Neurologist at The Walton Centre. He completed Post-Doctoral Training at the Center for Immunology and Inflammatory Disease, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School where he has developed an intravital microscopy model of viral encephalitis to image leucocyte migration into the brain in real-time. He has received The Liversage Award for Neurology and The British Medical Association Vera Down Award for Neuroscience. For his neurological education work in Africa, he is a Honorary Faculty for the Royal College of Physicians and his team were The 2020 Finalists for the Royal College Awards for Excellence in Education.

Benedict is Vice Chair of the Encephalitis Society's Scientific Advisory Panel and a Scientific Advisor to the Meningitis Research Foundation. He has worked as a Royal College of Physicians Faculty Tutor in West Africa and with the NIHR to promote Patient and Public Engagement in research.

Dr Michael is currently co-Chairing the World Health Organisation (WHO) - Commissioned Task Force on Acute Clinical Care for Neurological complications of COVID-19. He is currently leading the National Surveillance Programme for Neurological Complications of COVID-19, CoroNerve, for the University as part of the Study Management Group (with the universities of Newcastle, Southampton, and UCL), in collaboration with the Association of British Neurologists, British Paediatric Neurology Association, British Association of Stroke Physicians, Royal College of Psychiatry, The NeuroAnaesthesia and Critical Care Society, and other key stakeholders.



## Meet our Speakers



### Dr Cecilia Zivelonghi

Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona, Italy

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I recently completed my training in Neurology in Italy. Since the beginning of my medical training, I was particularly fascinated by the courses in the field of Neuroscience and I dedicated additional time and energies to research and clinical activities in Neurology. After attending the Neurological Intensive Care Unit and the Stroke Unit of the Hospital in Verona in 2014, I began the formal training as a resident in Neurology at the University of Verona in 2016. In those years of regular and continuous attendance, I completed my education as a neurologist and I was introduced to the field of Neuroimmunology and basic sciences thanks to the continuous attendance at the Neuropathology Laboratory. From September 2019 to March 2020 I worked as a Research Fellow at the Neuroimmunology Laboratory of the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN, USA), under the direct supervision of Professor Andrew McKeon (co-director of the Neuroimmunology Laboratory). In this 6-months training, I focused on many research projects including the identification of new autoantibodies and I am still working on those projects as a research collaborator. I consolidated my interest and expertise into the clinical and pathological manifestations of neurological autoimmune diseases and in performing different diagnostic techniques/assays that can be applied to both Clinical and Research/Development settings.



### Dr Yvette Crijnen

Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam; The Netherlands

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Dr Yvette Crijnen works as a PhD Candidate at the Neurology Department of the Erasmus University Medical Center in the Netherlands. Currently, she combines research with her work as a Neurology Resident. She conducts research in the field of autoimmune encephalitis. Her research is mainly focused on patients with epilepsy.

### Dr Laura Bricio Moreno

Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston; USA

**Email:** [lbriomoreno@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:lbriomoreno@mgh.harvard.edu) **Twitter:** @LauraBricio



Dr Laura Bricio Moreno is a Research Fellow in the Center for Immunology and Inflammatory Diseases at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University. She completed her BSc in Biology at the University of Barcelona and then continued her education by moving to the UK, where she did an MSc in Infection and Immunity at the University of Leicester. Laura then moved to Liverpool to do her PhD studying the pathogenesis of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotype 1 at the Institute of Infection and Global Health (University of Liverpool). After finishing her PhD, she continued as a postdoc at the University of Liverpool studying the pathogenicity of other pathogens such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. By the end of her postdoc at the University of Liverpool she moved to Boston to work as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School studying leukocyte migration into the brain during infections of the Central Nervous System, such as HSV encephalitis and cerebral malaria.



### **Dr Mette Scheller Nissen**

Odense University Hospital; University of Southern Denmark; Denmark

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Dr Mette S Nissen studied medicine at University of Southern Denmark in Odense. For her medical thesis she worked at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Neurobiology on the topic anti-NMDAR encephalitis. Since 2017, she is training as a Neurologist at Odense University Hospital. She is currently working as a clinician-researcher together with Prof Morten Blaabjerg on the topic autoimmune encephalitis and completing her PhD on anti-NMDAR encephalitis.



### **Dr Greta Wood**

Royal Liverpool University Hospital, Liverpool; UK

**Email:** [greta.wood@live.co.uk](mailto:greta.wood@live.co.uk) **Twitter:** @gkwood3

Dr Greta Wood is an Academic Foundation Year 2 Doctor in the Royal Liverpool University Hospital with interests in Infectious Disease and Global Health. She is a member of the Liverpool Brain Infections Group with work focusing upon seizures in encephalitis and the aetiology of brain infection in low- and middle-income countries. From Sep-Dec 2019, Greta was based in the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust, Blantyre, Malawi, as part of the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Improving the Management of Acute Brain Infection.



### **Vasundharaa Nair**

National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Karnataka; India

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Vasundharaa S Nair, has completed her M.Phil in psychiatric social work from NIMHANS and is currently pursuing her PhD under the Senior Research Fellowship under the UGC at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences. She pursued her pre-doctoral thesis on the topic “Adaptability of the WHO ZIKA Toolkit for psychosocial support preparedness” and is currently working in the area of brain infections titled “Social Factors for Persons with Acute Brain Infections”.



### **Dr Frederik Bartels, Charité**

Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Berlin School of Mind and Brain; Germany

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Frederik Bartels studied medicine at Heidelberg University, Université de Lausanne, University College London, and Columbia University. For his medical thesis he worked at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg in the lab of Prof Wolfgang Wick studying molecular mechanisms of glioblastoma invasiveness. Since 2015, he is training as a neurologist at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and working as a clinician scientist with Prof Carsten Finke on autoimmune encephalitis and autoantibody-mediated neurological disorders. During his studies, he was a fellow of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and the Heidelberg Biosciences International Graduate School. Currently, he is supported by the Berlin School of Mind and Brain.



### **Dr Priya Treasa Thomas**

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; India

**Email:** [priyathomasat@gmail.com](mailto:priyathomasat@gmail.com)

Dr Priya Thomas has a PhD in Psychiatric Social Work from National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore. Currently, she is working as an Associate Professor. In NIMHANS, she essentially concentrates her clinical expertise in social work with persons suffering from various neurological illness and their families and works extensively with neuro infections. Dr Thomas is passionate about compassionate care, rehabilitation and disability. She tries to give voice to people's experiences through the qualitative enquiry that she undertakes.



## Dr A.E.M. Bastiaansen

Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam; The Netherlands

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After finishing a degree in biomedical sciences in 2007, Dr A.E.M Bastiaansen studied medicine at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam (2007-2013). She had a big interest in neurology and started working as a resident in a teaching hospital in Dordrecht. In 2015 she returned to the Erasmus University Medical Center to resume her residency training to become a neurologist. In 2016 she started a PhD tract to study autoimmune and paraneoplastic encephalitis, supervised by Prof Dr P.A.E. Sillevius Smitt and Dr M.J. Titulaer. Dr Bastiaansen currently combines her PhD tract with the residency program in neurology.



## Josephine Heine

Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Germany

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Josephine Heine is a cognitive neuroscientist and PhD researcher at the Department of Neurology at Charité - University Clinic in Berlin. After receiving her degrees in neuroscience and psychology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, and the University of California, San Diego, she joined the Cognitive Neurology Lab Berlin (PI Carsten Fink) in 2015. Josephine's research focuses on imaging of cognitive symptoms in neuroimmunological disorders. Her recent work investigated neuropsychological, structural and functional connectivity changes in patients with autoimmune encephalitis associated with NMDA receptor and LGI1 antibodies. During her PhD, she was a doctoral scholar of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes).



## Dr Aline de Moura Brasil Matos

Tropical Medicine Institute, University of São Paulo, São Paulo; Brazil

**Email:** [alinembmatos@hotmail.com](mailto:alinembmatos@hotmail.com)

Dr Aline de Moura Brasil Matos was accepted to the neurology residence program of Hospital General de Fortaleza, Ceará state, Brazil, in 2014, where she acted as chief resident and started her research in neurological manifestations of arboviral infections. She was later accepted in the neuroimmunology fellowship program of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and now is a PhD student in the same university, in the tropical medicine program. In 2019, part of her research was awarded with the "International research seed funding" by the Encephalitis Society.

## Charly Billaud

Aston University, Birmingham; UK

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I started my PhD in Neuroscience at Aston University, Birmingham, with the prospect of engaging in research, gathering all the ethical, epistemological and practical tools needed to further our understanding of human functioning and well-being. I acquired my undergraduate degree in Psychology from Poitiers, France, and obtained a Masters in Clinical Neuroscience from the National University of Ireland, Galway. My MSc project focused on alcohol consumption in Bipolar Disorder, and how it related to structural connectivity and executive functions. My first year of PhD allowed me to learn methods of analyses for magnetoencephalography and structural MRI, paradigm programming, and neuropsychological scoring. Thanks to the Encephalitis Society, I was given the opportunity to work on an ongoing research project in paediatric encephalitis and its long term clinical outcomes. Working with researchers from the Aston Brain Centre and collaborating with Birmingham Children's Hospital is an important experience which will help me acquire the skills needed for good and fruitful research.



# Poster Presentation

*(Details about the presenting authors and full content of the Posters are found in the Poster Booklet)*

## **Quality of life in patients after LGI1-antibody encephalitis: predictive factors and a literature review**

*Dr Sophie NM Binks, Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK*

## **Real-life use of the Cunningham panel in a Danish cohort**

*Prof Morten Blaabjerg, Dept of Neurology, Odense University Hospital; Dept of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark*

## **Duration of illness and time to antibody testing in psychosis patients with anti-neuronal membrane antibodies**

*Iona Cairns, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford, Devon Partnership NHS Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust*

## **Seizure prevalence in seropositive autoimmune encephalitis – a systematic review and quantitative synthesis**

*Arielle Coughlin, Department of Neurology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA*

## **Adult-onset Rasmussen encephalitis: An association with systemic autoimmune disorders?**

*Dr Sophie Elands, Neurology Department, Erasmus Hospital, Brussels, Belgium*

## **Peripartum GAD65 antibody-associated autoimmune encephalitis: a case report and literature review**

*Dr Sophie Elands, Neurology Department, Erasmus Hospital, Brussels, Belgium*

## **Expanding the clinical spectrum of anti-GFAP astrocytopathy: severe meningoencephalomyelitis with remarkable hyperekplexia, myoclonus and stiffness**

*Dr Jon Equiza, Neurology Department, Donostia University Hospital, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain*

## **Neurodegenerative changes in human neurons exposed to anti-IgLON5 antibodies**

*Mattias Gamre, Neurobiology Research, Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Southern Denmark, Odense; Department of Neurology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark*

## **Clinical features which predict autoantibodies in new onset focal epilepsy**

*Dr Adam Handel, Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK*

## **Neurological and neuropsychiatric complications of COVID-19 in 153 patients: a UK-wide surveillance study** *Athavan Jeyanathan, Clinical Neuroscience, University of Southampton, UK*

## **Natural language processing analyses of written text across stages of anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis**

*Kelsey Martin, Department of Neurology Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai New York, New York, USA*

## **The successful treatment of fulminant ADEM in an adult patient with high dose cyclophosphamide**

*Dr Jennifer A. McCombe, Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

## **Bone marrow-derived antigen-specific long-lived plasma cells in LGI1-antibody encephalitis: novel insights into disease mechanisms and therapeutic implications**

*Dr Sophia Michael, Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, John Radcliffe Hospital, University of Oxford; Department of Neurology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford University Hospitals, Oxford, UK*

## **Autoimmune encephalitis as an increasingly recognised cause of non-convulsive status epilepticus: A retrospective, multicentre evaluation of patient characteristics and electroencephalography (EEG) results**

*Dr James Mitchell, Department of Neurology, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool, UK*

## **Spectrum of movement disorders in patients with autoimmune encephalitis**

*Dr Netravathi M., Department of Neurology, National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, India*

## **Anti-Hu encephalitis associated with an almost missed lung cancer - a clinical case**

*Dr Ion Rotaru, Neurology Department, N. Obu Emergency Hospital, Iasi, Romania*

## **First report of neuroinvasive endemic West Nile myelitis in Belarus**

*Assoc Prof Mikita Salavei, Department of Infectious Diseases, Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk, Belarus*

## Analysis of T cell response against N-Methyl--D-Aspartate receptor and implication for immunotherapy development targeting neurological and psychiatric disorders

Célia Seillier, Physiopathology and Imaging of Neurological Disorders (PhIND) Inserm U1237, Normandie Université (UNICAEN), Caen, France

## Pathogens causing encephalitis and other brain infections in Brazil, India & Malawi: a Brain Infections Global systematic review and meta-analysis

Dr Bhagteshwar Singh, NIHR Global Health Research Group on Brain Infections, Institute of Infection Veterinary & Ecological Sciences, University of Liverpool, Liverpool

## Profile of patients with Acute Encephalitis Syndrome attending a tertiary care hospital in south India

Dr Rache Suma, Department of Epidemiology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

## Measuring outcome in encephalitis

Dr Harriet Van Den Tooren, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool, UK

## Paraneoplastic limbic encephalitis associated with SIADH and triple autoantibody-positivity

Dr Irene Volonghi, Neurology Unit, Department of Neurological and Vision Sciences, ASST Spedali Civili, Brescia, Italy

## SARS-CoV-2 infection: a potential trigger of inflammatory neurological disorders

Dr Cecilia Zivelonghi, Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona, Italy

## Important dates for your calendar 2021

- **22nd February - World Encephalitis Day**  
[www.worldencephalitisday.org](http://www.worldencephalitisday.org)
- **June - Encephalitis Research month**  
[www.encephalitis.info/research](http://www.encephalitis.info/research)
- **December - Encephalitis Conference**  
[www.encephalitis.info/conference](http://www.encephalitis.info/conference)

# Encephalitis Research Month in Numbers 2020



**28**  
COUNTRIES  
ENGAGED

**70**  
ITEMS OF  
COVERAGE  
SEEN BY  
**1.4** MILLION



CAMPAIGN  
REACH  
**4.3**  
MILLION



**2**

SEED FUNDING  
GRANTS FOR COVID-19  
STUDIES AWARDED  
IN THE USA



**15**

RADIO  
INTERVIEWS



**4**

TV  
INTERVIEWS





# The Doctor Who Fooled The World

Andrew Wakefield's war on vaccines

**BRIAN DEER**

A reporter uncovers the secrets behind the scientific scam of the century.

*Written with the meticulousness of a journalist determined to find out the truth and the pulse-pounding pacing of a thriller, The Doctor Who Fooled the World is a profoundly important book.'*

Steve Silberman, author of Neurotribes

*'The Doctor Who Fooled the World is a definitive account of the most consequential medical fraud of the twentieth century and of investigative reporter Brian Deer's role in uncovering it. Deer's book is a compelling reminder of what great investigative journalism looks like and why it matters.'*

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, author of Cyberwar

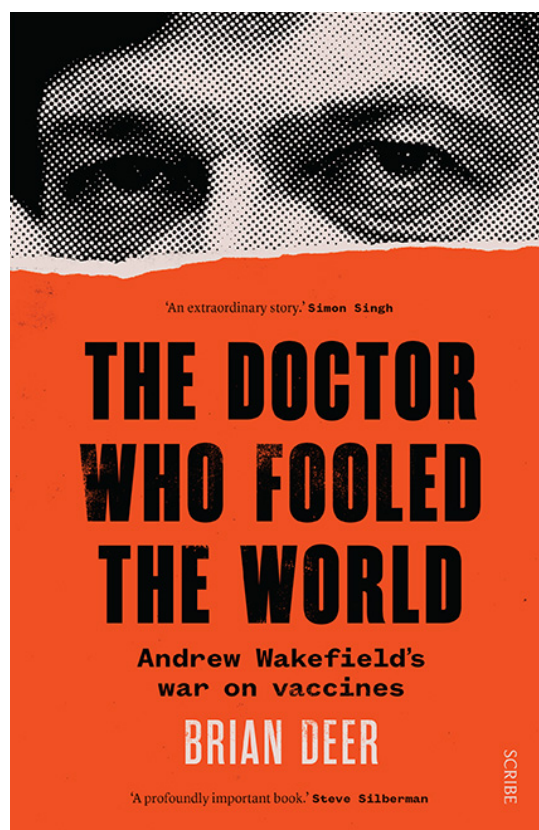
*'An extraordinary story of medical fraud and scaremongering, told by the courageous and tenacious journalist who revealed the truth.'*

Simon Singh, author of Fermat's Enigma

The news breaks first as a tale of fear and pity. Doctors at a London hospital claim a link between autism and a vaccine given to millions of children: MMR. Young parents are terrified. Immunisation rates slump. And as a worldwide 'anti-vax' movement kicks off, old diseases return to sicken and kill. But a veteran reporter isn't so sure, and sets out on an epic investigation. Battling establishment cover-ups, smear campaigns, and gagging lawsuits, he exposes rigged research and secret schemes, the heartbreaking plight of families struggling with disability, and the scientific deception of our time.

Here's the story of Andrew Wakefield: a man in search of greatness, who stakes his soul on big ideas that, if right, might transform lives. But when the facts don't fit, he can't face failure. He'll do whatever it takes to succeed.

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**BRIAN DEER** is a veteran British investigative journalist, best known for his inquiries into the drug industry, medicine, and social issues for The Sunday Times. Among his awards, Deer was twice named the UK's specialist reporter of the year, and in 2016 he was made Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) by York St. John University.

## Who is the Encephalitis Society?

We are an international charity and the only resource of our kind in the world, dedicated to supporting those affected by encephalitis, their families and professionals involved in their care. Our work involves:

- Supporting adults, children, families and carers of those affected by encephalitis through our support line, events and opportunities to connect with other people with similar experiences.
- Producing high quality, evidence-based and peer-reviewed information about encephalitis, recovery and rehabilitation available on our website or as a hardcopy on request from our office.
- Raising awareness about encephalitis, its consequences and the need for improved services and much needed research.
- Conducting and funding research and working in partnership with other researchers.

## How can we support you?

- The only conference dedicated exclusively to encephalitis.  
[www.encephalitis.info/conference](http://www.encephalitis.info/conference)
- Extensive database of people affected by encephalitis which can contribute to your research projects.  
[www.encephalitis.info/research-currently-recruiting](http://www.encephalitis.info/research-currently-recruiting)
- Vast information resources dedicated to your patients and their families.
- Annual Encephalitis Research Summary.  
[www.encephalitis.info/research-summary](http://www.encephalitis.info/research-summary)
- Opportunities to connect with other professionals and patients.
- First-hand news regarding encephalitis advances and professional encephalitis community.  
[www.encephalitis.info/professional-newsletter](http://www.encephalitis.info/professional-newsletter)



## How can you support us?

- Become a member of the Encephalitis Society. Membership is free and it takes two minutes to do it online.  
[www.encephalitis.info/professional-membership](http://www.encephalitis.info/professional-membership)
- Join us in going #RED4WED and talking about encephalitis on World Encephalitis Day 22nd February 2021  
[www.worldencephalitisday.org](http://www.worldencephalitisday.org)
- Text **DOCTOR** to **70085** to donate £5 to our life-saving work
- Signpost your patients to our Society (please see details below)

### ENCEPHALITIS SOCIETY

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YO17 7DT, United Kingdom  
[www.encephalitis.info](http://www.encephalitis.info)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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### PRESIDENT

Professor Tom Solomon



Patient information awards  
Highly commended



**ENCEPHALITIS  
SOCIETY**

*The brain inflammation charity*

# Encephalitis Society Scientific Advisory Panel

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