

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

MENACTRIMS
Middle East North Africa Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis

PRE-MENACTRIMS WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 AL BARAHA 1

09:00-10:30	**RE-MENACTRIMS WORKSHOP** *Chairs: S. Farouk Ahmed (KW), S. Nouri Ibrahim (AE)*	
09:00-10:30	Ocular Motor Disorders in MS and Other Diseases: Diagnosis and Treatment	M. Strupp (DE)

MENACTRIMS MEETINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 AL RIMAL

10:30-11:30	**MENACTRIMS Board Meeting**
11:30-13:00	**MENACTRIMS General Assembly**
13:00-13:45	Lunch Break

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Paradigms

PARADIGMS PRE-MENACTRIMS SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 AL BARAHA 1

13:45-14:45	**From Signals to Decisions: Technological, Imaging and Fluid Biomarkers in MS Treatment** *Chairs: President of MENACTRIMS, B. Yamout (AE)*	
13:45 – 13:50	Welcome	B. Yamout (AE) & C. Oreja-Guevara (ES)
13:50 – 14:05	Technological Biomarkers	T. Ziemssen (DE)
14:05 – 14:20	Imaging Biomarkers	C. Oreja-Guevara (ES)
14:20 – 14:35	Fluid Biomarkers	M. Magyari (DK)
14:35 – 14:45	Q&A and Panel Discussion	All faculty, facilitated by B. Yamout (AE)



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NOVARTIS PRE-MENACTRIMS SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 AL BARAHA 1

15:00-16:15	**TBA**

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ROCHE PRE-MENACTRIMS SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 AL BARAHA 1

16:15-17:30	**TBA**

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MERCK MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

MERCK MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS PRE-MENACTRIMS SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 AL BARAHA 1

17:45-18:45	**MS over time: Milestones, Decisions, and Perspectives** *Chair: G. Giovannoni (UK)*	
17:45 – 17:55	The Age-Old-Question: How Should Future Priorities Influence Decisions Today?	G. Giovannoni (UK)
17:55 – 18:10	The First Decision: Regional Perspectives on the Newly Diagnosed Patient	G. Giovannoni (UK) & R. Alroughani (KW)
18:10 – 18:25	Planning for Life Events: Managing Ms and Pregnancy Across Regions	K. Hellwig (DE) & R. Alroughani (KW)
18:25 – 18:40	Revisiting the Patient: The long-Term View	B. Yamout (AE)
18:40 – 18:45	Audience Q&A and Meeting Close	All faculty, moderated by G. Giovannoni (UK)



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ELEVENTH MENACTRIMS CONGRESS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026 MAIN HALL

08:00-09:00	Registration & Morning Coffee	
09:00-10:15	**Session I: PIRA: A New Therapeutic Target** *Chairs: C. Oreja-Guevara (ES), J. Inshasi (AE)*	
09:00-09:20	Reevaluating the Concept of PIRA	M. Zakaria (EG)
09:20-09:40	How to Detect PIRA in Clinical Practice	Y. Al-Malik (SA)
09:40-10:00	Effectiveness of Escalation Vs. Early High-Efficacy Therapies on PIRA	H. P. Hartung (DE)
10:00-10:15	*Panel Discussion*	
10:15-10:45	**Satellite Symposium hosted by Novartis** *Chair: TBA*	
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:00	**Session II: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding in MS, NMOSD and MOGAD** *Chairs: A. Siva (TR), M. Al-Jummah (SA)*	
11:00-11:25	Updated ECTRIMS Guidelines on Pregnancy and Breastfeeding in MS	S. Vukusic (FR)
11:25-11:50	Updated ECTRIMS Guidelines on Pregnancy and Breastfeeding in NMOSD AND MOGAD	K. Hellwig (DE)
11:50-12:00	*Panel Discussion*	
12:00-12:15	**Welcome and Introduction** *B. Yamout (AE), President of MENACTRIMS*	
12:15-12:45	**Satellite Symposium hosted by AstraZeneca** *Chair: TBA*	
12:45-14:00	**Prayer Break and Lunch (Buses Leave at 12:35)**	
14:00-15:15	**Session III: Aging and MS: Managing DMTs** *Chairs: S. Bohlega (SA), A. Shatila (AE)*	
14:00-14:20	Biological Vs Chronological Aging in MS	N. Grigoriadis (GR)
14:20-14:40	Treatment Discontinuation: Where Do We Stand?	T. Kalincik (AU)
14:40-15:00	Anti-CD20 Therapies: When and How to De-escalate?	B. Yamout (AE)
15:00-15:15	*Panel Discussion*	



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026 MAIN HALL

15:15-15:45	**Satellite Symposium hosted by Sanofi** *Chair: TBA*	
15:45-16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15-17:15	**Session IV: Oral Presentations** *Chairs: A. Abulaban (SA), M. Shakra (AE)*	
16:15-16:25	Hypogammaglobulinemia, IgM Decline, and B-cell dDepletion During Ocrelizumab Therapy in a Middle Eastern Multiple Sclerosis Cohort: Prevalence And Predictors from the Q-OCRE Extension	K. Zammar (LB)
16:25-16:35	Influence of Vitamin D Levels And Acute Epstein–Barr Virus Infection on Neuroinflammation and Implications In Multiple Sclerosis	A. Rasheed (PK)
16:35-16:45	Stage-Dependent Efficacy of Extracellular Vesicles in a Cuprizone-Induced Demyelination Model: Correlating Molecular and Behavioral Outcomes	N. Nasr (EG)
16:45-16:55	Do the 2024 McDonald Criteria Improve MS Diagnosis Without New Biomarkers? A Retrospective Study	A. Akram (PK)
16:45-16:55	Timing and Clinical Predictors of Conversion From Relapsing-Remitting to Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis in a Single-Center Cohort	S. Darweesh (JO)
16:55-17:05	Economic and Societal Burden of Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis in Saudi Arabia: A National Cost-of-Illness Analysis	A. Abulaban (SA)
17:15-17:45	**Satellite Symposium hosted by NeuraxPharm** *Chair: TBA*	
19:30-22:30	**Congress Dinner (by ticket only)**	



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ELEVENTH MENACTRIMS CONGRESS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 MAIN HALL

08:30-09:00	Registration & Morning Coffee	
09:00-10:15	**Session V: The Changing Epidemiology and Natural History of MS** *Chairs: M. Dahdaleh (JO), A. M. Hassan (AE)*	
09:00-09:20	Changes in Incidence and Prevalence of MS Over Time	M. Magyari (DK)
09:20-09:40	Trends in Epidemiology of MS in the MENA Region	R. Gouider (TN)
09:40-10:00	Are we Modifying Long-Term Prognosis with Early High Efficacy Treatment	B. Singer (US)
10:00-10:15	*Panel Discussion*	
10:15-10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30-11:00	**Satellite Symposium hosted by Merck** *Chair: TBA*	
11:00-12:00	**Session VI: European Charcot Foundation Symposium** **Cell-Based Therapies in MS: Emerging Frontiers** *Chairs: H. P Hartung (DE), S. Makkawi (SA)*	
11:00-11:25	CAR-T Cell Therapy in MS: Rational and Early Clinical Evidence	H. P Hartung (DE)
11:25-11:50	Autologous Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation: Patient Selection and Outcomes	P. Muraro (UK)
11:50-12:00	*Panel Discussion*	
12:00-12:30	**Satellite Symposium hosted by Roche** *Chair: TBA*	
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:15	**Session VII: Hot Topics in MS** *Chairs: A. Mahdawi (IQ), S. Aljarallah (SA)*	
14:00-14:20	RIS and How to Mange it With the New McDonald Criteria	R. Alroughani (KW)
14:20-14:40	Lifestyle Interventions to Improve Outcomes in MS	G. Giovannoni (UK)
14:40-15:00	Accelerating Treatments for Progressive MS: From Experimental to Clinical Trials	L. Makaroff (UK)
15:00-15:15	*Panel Discussion*	
15:15-15:45	**Satellite Symposium hosted by Amgen** *Chair: TBA*	



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ELEVENTH MENACTRIMS CONGRESS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 MAIN HALL

15:45-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:15	**Session VIII: Differential Diagnosis of MS** *Chairs: S. Ahmed (EG), S. Daoudi (DZ)*	
16:00-16:20	Infectious Myelitis	S. Atweh (LB)
16:20-16:40	Autoimmune Encephalitis	E. Shosha (SA)
16:40-17:00	Diagnostic Impact of CVS and PRL in Clinical Practice	K. Toljan (AE)
17:00-17:15	*Panel Discussion*	
17:15-17:45	**Satellite Symposium hosted by Biogen** *Chair: TBA*	
17:45-18:00	**Closing Ceremony and Awards Presentation** *B. Yamout (AE), President of MENACTRIMS*	



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NURSING SESSION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026 AL NOOR

09:00-10:45	**Nursing Session I** **Foundations of MS Nursing Care and Patient Education** *Chair: TBA*	
09:00-10:45	Understanding MS Disease Activity and Treatment Goals for Nursing Practice	TBA
09:30-10:15	Monitoring DMT Safety, Adherence, and Patient Support	TBA
10:15-10:45	Communicating Relapse, Progression, and Red-Flag Symptoms to the Care Team	TBA
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:45	**Nursing Session II** **Patient-Centered MS Care Across the Disease Course** *Chair: TBA*	
11:00-11:30	Supporting Women, Families, and Special Populations Living with MS	TBA
11:30-12:00	Fatigue, Cognition, Mental Health, and Quality-of-Life Screening	TBA
12:00-12:45	Coordinating Multidisciplinary Care and Long-Term Follow-Up in MS	TBA
12:45-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-14:30	**Nursing Industry Talk I hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	
14:30-15:00	**Nursing Industry Talk II hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	
15:00-15:30	**Nursing Industry Talk III hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	
15:30-16:00	**Nursing Industry Talk IV hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	
16:00-16:30	**Nursing Industry Talk V hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	
16:30-17:00	**Nursing Industry Talk VI hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	
17:00-17:30	**Nursing Industry Talk VII hosted by TBA** *Chair: TBA*	