



ECTRIMS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH EXCHANGE FELLOWS

2021 Awardees

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

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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
Fellowship Institution: University of Bern, Switzerland
Mentor: Britta Engelhardt, Prof. Dr.
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Vasiliki Pantazou, PhD**
Research Topic: Modulation of microglial interaction with the node of Ranvier by adaptative immune cues
Fellowship Institution: Hopitaux Universitaire Pitié Salpêtrière, Paris, France
Mentor: Anne Desmazieres, Dr.
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Carmen Picon, MD**
Project: Unveiling inflammatory mechanisms underpinning selective neuronal vulnerability in Multiple Sclerosis
Fellowship Institution: University of Geneva, Switzerland
Mentor: Doron Merkle, Dr.
Fellowship 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
Fellowship Institution: Dept. of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge, Clifford Albutt Building, Hills Road, CB2 0HA Cambridge, United Kingdom
Mentor: Stefano Pluchino, MD, PhD
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: Maheshwor Timilshina, PhD
Research Topic: The role of LXR signaling in regulatory T cell function and autoimmune diseases
Fellowship Institution: Institute for Molecular Medicine, Mainz, Germany
Mentor: Ari Waisman, Prof. Dr.
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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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
Fellowship Institution: Karolinska Institutet Biomedicum Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor: Gonçalo Castelo-Branco, Dr.
Fellowship 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?
Fellowship Institution: Queen's Mary University, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences - Centre for Experimental Medicine -Institute for Health Sciences, Belfast, United Kingdom
Mentor: Denise Fitzgerald, MD, PhD
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: Iris Kleerekooper, MD

Research Topic: Minimally invasive testing of mitochondrial function to predict progressive neurodegeneration in acute multiple sclerosis associated optic neuritis

Fellowship Institution: Queen Square Multiple Sclerosis Centre, UCL Institute of Neurology, London 2. Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Mentor: Anand Trip, PhD, FRCP; Axel Petzold MD, PhD

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: Elena Morandi, PhD

Research Topic: Investigation of the impact of Multiple Sclerosis associated genetic variant CD226 Gly307Ser on T cell functions

Fellowship Institution: Inserm UMR 1043 - CNRS UMR 5282 - Université Toulouse III CHU Purpan, Centre de Physiopathologie de Toulouse-Purpan, Toulouse, France

Mentor: Abdelhadi Saoudi, PhD

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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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

Fellowship Institution: University of Bern, Theodor Kocher Institute, Berne, Switzerland

Mentor: Britta Engelhardt, PhD

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

2017 Awardees

Fellow: **Gloria Castellazzi, PhD**

Research Topic: Developing a clinical decision system based on characterising shared and specific functional features of MS subtypes

Fellowship Institution: UCL Institute of Neurology, Queen Square MS Centre, Department of Neuroinflammation, London, United Kingdom

Mentor: Prof. Claudia Gandini Wheeler-Kingshott

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Joanna Marczyńska, PhD**

Research Topic: Mechanisms suppressing autoimmune responses in the central nervous system

Fellowship Institution: University of Southern Denmark, Neurobiology, Odense C, Denmark

Mentor: Prof. Trevor Owens

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Kyla McKay, PhD**

Research Topic: The causes and consequences of paediatric multiple sclerosis: A population-based study

Fellowship Institution: Karolinska Institutet, Clinical Neuroscience, Stockholm, Sweden

Mentor: Prof. Jan Hillert

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: Emanuela Oldoni, PhD
Research Topic: Multiple sclerosis heterogeneity: patient-to-patient variation in cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers
Fellowship Institution: KU Leuven, Department of Neurosciences, Leuven, Belgium
Mentor: An Goris, PhD
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

2016 Awardees

Fellow: Mansih Malviya, PhD
Research Topic: Molecular engineering of Tregs expressing recombinant TCR: study of their therapeutics effects in animal models of MS
Fellowship Institution: INSERM, Center of Pathophysiology of Toulouse (CPTP), France
Mentor: Prof. Roland Liblau
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: Sabah Mozafari, PhD
Research Topic: Analysis of cellular behaviour of skin-derived myelin-producing human cells in vitro and in vivo after transplantation in the demyelinated central nervous system
Fellowship Institution: INSERM U1127, Sorbonne Universities, Paris, France
Mentor: Prof. Anne Baron-Van Evercooren

Fellowship Duration: 2 years



Fellow: **Bieke Broux, PhD**

Research Topic: The unexplored role of interleukin-24 in MS

Fellowship Institution: Hasselt University, Biomedical Research Institute, Diepenbeek, Belgium

Mentor: Prof. Niels Hellings

Fellowship 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?

Fellowship Institution: UCL Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London, UK

Mentor: Prof. Olga Ciccarelli; Prof. Alan Thompson

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Ana Luisa Falcao, PhD**

Research Topic: Epigenetic states underlying oligodendrocyte precursor differentiation in MS

Fellowship Institution: Karolinska Institute, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Stockholm, Sweden

Mentor: Dr. Gonçalo Caselo-Branco

Fellowship 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
Fellowship Institution: Theodor Kocher Institute, Bern, Switzerland
Mentor: Prof. Britta Engelhardt
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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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
Fellowship Institution: University Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland
Mentor: Dr. Caroline Pot
Fellowship 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
Fellowship Institution: Department of Neuroimaging, King's College London, London, United Kingdom
Mentor: Prof. Federico Turkheimer
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Andreia Carvalho, PhD**
Research Topic: Mitochondrial dynamics in Multiple Sclerosis
Fellowship Institution: VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Mentor: Prof. Jan van Horssen

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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Fellow: **Androniki Voulgari-Kokota**, PhD

Research Topic: Dissection of the effects of mesenchymal stem cells on glial cells involved in neurogenesis

Fellowship Institution: Department of Neurology, University of Genova, Genova, Italy

Mentor: Prof. Antonio Uccelli

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

2011 Awardees

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

Fellowship Institution: VU University Medical Center, Departments of Radiology and Physics and Medical Technology, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Mentor: Dr. Hugo Vrenken

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

2010 Awardees

Fellow: **Anu Kemppinen**, PhD, Master of Science

Research Topic: Somatic mutations in Multiple Sclerosis

Fellowship Institution: Cambridge University, Neurology Unit, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Mentor: Prof. Stephen Sawcer

Fellowship Duration: 2 years

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

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

2009 Awardees

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

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Fellow: Clemens Warnke, MD
Research Topic: Impact of neutralising antibodies against recombinant interferon beta on viral immunosurveillance by inhibition of

endogenous interferon
Fellowship Institution: Department of Clinical Neuroscience Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden
Mentor: Profs. Jan Hillert & Anna Fogdell-Hahn
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

2008 Awardees

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

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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.
Fellowship Institution: MS Center, Department of Neurology, Hadassah Ein-Kerem University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel
Mentor: Prof. Demitrios Karussis
Fellowship Duration: 2 years

2007 Awardees

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

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