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1st GAEM Scientific Symposium

Antigen specific therapy for Autoimmune diseases: Multiple Sclerosis and Optic Neuromyelitis

Date: June 18th 2015

Co-organized by GAEM Foundation and “la Caixa” Foundation

Venue: CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Spain

Abstract:

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) are inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system that produces significant disability in young adults. Although at present we have several immunotherapies for treating both diseases, none of such diseases are well controlled and each therapy impose the risk of significant side effects, mainly due to opportunistic infections. The search for a more specific therapy, with improved efficacy and better safety profile is an important endeavor at present. In this 1st GAEM Scientific Symposium, speakers will present current strategies of antigen-specific therapy being tested in patients with MS and NMO and discussed about the challenges being faced with this approach.

9-9:30 am Welcome:

Dr. Enric Banda, Director of Science and Environment Area (“la Caixa” Foundation).

Prof. Fernando Albericio, Vice president of the Group Affected Multiple Sclerosis (Fundació GAEM).

9:30-10 am inaugural conference: “The re-emergence of antigen specific tolerance as a potential therapy for MS”- Prof. Lawrence Steinman (Stanford University, EEUU).

10-10:30 am – “Antigen-specific Treg-cell-expanding nanomedicines for the treatment of autoimmune disease” - Dr. Pere Santamaria (IDIBAPS- Hospital Clínic de Barcelona and Alberta University, Canada).

10:30-11 am– “Clinical application of tolerogenic dendritic cells in autoimmune diseases” - Dr. Daniel Bénitez (IDIBAPS- Hospital Clínic de Barcelona).

11-11:45 am - Coffee break and networking.

11:45-12:15 pm – “Antigen-specific tolerization as a treatment for multiple sclerosis and other autoimmune diseases”- Prof. Roland Martin (Zurich University, Switzerland).

12:15-12:45 pm – “A patient-centered model based on science”. Dr. Virginia de las Heras (medical department of neuroscience at Novartis).

12:45-13:45 pm – Round table with the speakers - Dr. Pablo Villoslada as moderator.

13:45 pm- Closing and conclusions:

Dr. Marta Príncep (Fundació GAEM).

Dr. Pablo Villoslada (IDIBAPS - Hospital Clínic de Barcelona).

Cocktail

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