

Industry Therapeutic Update From Sanofi Medical

# Ahead of the Curve: How Early Detection of Disability May Impact the MS Disease Course

*Integrating Patient Perspectives, Clinical Insights,  
and Scientific Advances*



Monday, April 20, 2026 | 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM CDT



McCormick Place, West Building, Room 475



Explore the potential for detecting MS disability accumulation early, through clinician, patient, and scientist perspectives.

The understanding of multiple sclerosis is evolving from a clinically defined disease to a **dynamic biological continuum**.

As a result, the spotlight is shifting towards identifying the **underlying drivers of disability accumulation as early as possible**, with the goal of **influencing the disease course**.

Join the panel to unravel the **underlying biological mechanisms of disability accumulation**, how these manifest in the patient and gain insights into the importance of **recognizing the signs of disability accumulation early**.



# AGENDA

Decoding disability accumulation and clinical implications

New insights into the mechanisms driving disability

Emerging tools to stay ahead of the curve

Live Q&A



**Anita Williams**

Person living with MS



**Scott Newsome**

MD, DO, MSCS, FAAN, FANA



**Ahmed Abdelhak**

MD



AAN, American Academy of Neurology; MS, multiple sclerosis. This program is NOT accredited for continuing education by any organization. Additionally, Industry Therapeutic Updates program content and the views expressed herein are those of the presenting corporate entity and not of the AAN. These programs are not an official part of the 2026 AAN Annual Meeting education or scientific programs, nor are they endorsed by the AAN. The AAN cannot affirm claims pertaining to FDA off-label medication, research use of pre-FDA drugs, or other research information that might be discussed. Industry Therapeutic Updates are industry events. This is a non-promotional medical symposium sponsored by Sanofi. The content was developed by Sanofi in consultation with scientific experts and a person living with MS for scientific exchange purposes and is not eligible for CME credits. ©2026 Sanofi. All rights reserved. Sanofi is a registered trademark of Sanofi or an affiliate. 450 Water Street, Cambridge, MA 02141. <https://www.sanofi.com/en/contact>. MAT-GLB-2600604 - 1.0 - 04/2026

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## Anita Williams

Person living with Multiple Sclerosis

*Multiple Sclerosis Implementation Network, USA;  
Minority Research Engagement Partnership Network, USA;  
iConquerMS RIDE Council, USA*

Anita Williams is a nationally engaged multiple sclerosis patient advocate and research partner who works at the intersection of lived experience, clinical research, and implementation science. Diagnosed with MS in 2015, Anita co-founded the MS Minority Research Engagement Partnership Network (MS MREPN) and serves on the Steering and Operating Committee of the Multiple Sclerosis Implementation Network (MSIN), The Research Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (RIDE) Council, and the Transform MS Smouldering Associated Worsening (SAW) Index Study.

Anita's work centers on building more inclusive research, translating evidence into practice, and ensuring patient voices meaningfully inform neurological care.



**Scott Newsome**  
MD, DO, MSCS, FAAN, FANA



*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA*

Dr. Scott Newsome is a Professor of Neurology at Johns Hopkins and specializes in the care of patients with neuroimmunological and neuroinflammatory disorders of the central nervous system.

Dr. Newsome joined the Division of Neuroimmunology and Neurological Infections after completing a neuroimmunology fellowship there with the support of a Sylvia Lawry Physician Fellowship from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

He is Director of the Neurosciences Consultation and Infusion Center, Stiff Person Syndrome Center of Excellence, and Neuroimmunology and Neurological Infectious Disease Fellowship Program as well as Co-Director of the MS Experimental Therapeutics Program, all at Johns Hopkins. He is also an advisor for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, a steering committee member of the International MS Differential Diagnosis Consortium.

Dr. Newsome's main research focuses on helping identify and test novel therapies and therapeutic strategies in multiple sclerosis and other neuroimmunological disorders. Other research endeavors include identifying risk factors of disease onset and severity, response to treatment, and long-term outcomes in neuroimmunological disorders.



**Ahmed Abdelhak**  
MD

*University of California, San Francisco, CA, USA*

Dr. Ahmed Abdelhak is an assistant professor and attending physician at the Department of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He specializes in care for patients with neuroimmunological conditions.

Dr. Abdelhak's translational lab focuses on understanding the earliest biological changes in neurological diseases and identifying and validating reliable biomarkers in multicenter cross-sectional and longitudinal cohorts that can predict disease progression and treatment response.

His expertise spans assay development, targeted protein detection, and advanced proteomic profiling, aiming to improve our understanding of neuronal injury, enable early diagnosis, and enable personalized treatment strategies.

Dr. Abdelhak's current research focuses on the mechanisms driving multiple sclerosis disability accumulation, with an emphasis on improving phenotyping through the study of cerebrospinal fluid and blood-derived biomarkers. He aims to identify novel pathways that contribute to disability accumulation in multiple sclerosis.

