

AINI Summer School 2025

Santa Chiara Lab – University of Siena (Italy) | July 17-18, 2025

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Thursday, July 17

- 14:00-14:15 **Welcome and Course Presentation**
Nicola De Stefano (Siena), Rosa Cortese (Siena), Alvino Bisecco (Napoli)
- 14:15-15:00 **Keynote Lecture**
Pathology of NMOSD and MOGAD and implications for clinical practice
Gabriele De Luca (Oxford)
- Session 1:** **Diagnosis and monitoring of Ab-mediated disorders**
Chairs: *Rosa Cortese (Siena), Elia Sechi (Sassari)*
- 15:00-15:30 **Imaging in NMOSD**
Laura Cacciaguerra (Rochester) | Discussant: Matteo Gastaldi (Pavia)
- 15:30-16:00 **Imaging in MOGAD**
Yael Hacohen (London) | Discussant: Sara Mariotto (Verona)
- 16:00-16:20 **OCT to detect subclinical activity in MOGAD and NMOSD**
Sara Collorone (London) | Discussant: Alessia Bianchi (Siena)
- 16:20-16:50 **Autoimmune Encephalitis and Paraneoplastic syndromes**
Carsten Finke (Berlin) | Discussant: Raffaele Iorio (Rome)
- 16:50-17:10 **Electroencephalography in Autoimmune Encephalitis**
Alberto Vogrig (Udine) | Discussant: Maria Pia Giannoccaro (Bologna)
- 17:10-17:30 *Coffee break*
- Session 2:** **Conventional neuroimaging**
Chairs: *Alvino Bisecco (Napoli), Sara Mariotto (Verona)*
- 17:30-17:50 **MRI protocols for the diagnosis of MS and inflammatory autoimmune diseases of the CNS**
Giuseppe Pontillo (Naples-Amsterdam)
- 17:50-18:10 **Using MRI to differentiate between MS, NMOSD and MOGAD**
Elia Sechi (Sassari)

18:10-18:30 **Presentation of the NINA Group and Closing Remarks**
Matteo Gastaldi (Pavia)

Friday, July 18

09:00-09:15 **Opening remarks**
Alvino Bisecco (Napoli), Matteo Gastaldi (Pavia)

Session 3: Atrophy and Non-Conventional Neuroimaging
Chairs: *Rosa Cortese (Siena), Marco Battaglini (Siena)*

09:15-09:45 **Brain and spinal cord atrophy**
Ferran Prados Carrasco (Barcelona - London)

09:45-10:15 **Cortical Lesions, Paramagnetic Rims, and Central Vein Sign**
Paolo Preziosa (Milan)

10:15-10:45 **Quantitative Neuroimaging Techniques**
Alessandro Cagol (Basel)

10:45-11:15 *Coffee break*

Practical Activities

Participants will be divided into different groups alternating between hands-on sessions at the workstation and classroom-based image review sessions.

11:15-11:30 **Introduction**
Rosa Cortese (Siena), Alessia Bianchi (Siena), Marco Battaglini (Siena)

11:30-12:30 **Practical Session #1: Identification of Characteristic Lesional Patterns**
Tutors: Elia Sechi (Sassari), Rosa Cortese (Siena), Alvino Bisecco (Naples)

12:30-13:30 **Practical Session #2: Semi-Quantitative Lesion Identification (Lesion Marking and Automatic Tools; AI)**
Tutors: Giordano Gentile (Siena), Alessia Bianchi (Siena), Anna de Mauro (Siena), Giuseppe Battaglia (Siena)

13:30-14:30 *Buffet lunch*

14:30-15:30 **Practical Session #3: PRLs, Central Vein sign**
Tutors: Paolo Preziosa (Milan), Alessandro Cagol (Basel), Anna de Mauro (Siena), Federica Aprile (Siena)

15:30-16:30 Practical Session #4: Brain and spinal cord Atrophy
Tutors: Marco Battaglini (Siena), Ferran Prados Carrasco (Barcelona – London)
Ludovico Luchetti (Siena), Francesco Sforazzini (Siena)

16:30-16:45 Coffee Break

Clinical Case-Based Practical Session

During the practical activity, clinical cases of patients with suspected demyelinating syndromes, autoimmune encephalitides, myasthenia gravis or paraneoplastic syndromes will be discussed, highlighting the crucial role of selecting and interpreting neuroimaging techniques in reaching the final diagnosis.

16:45–18:15 Clinical and Neuroimaging Correlation
Chairs: *Elia Sechi (Sassari), Alberto Vogrig (Udine)*

Tutors: Matteo Gastaldi (Pavia), Sara Mariotto (Verona), Valentina Damato (Firenze), Raffaele Iorio (Rome), Maria Pia Giannoccaro (Bologna), Silvia Casagrande (Trento),
(Six clinical cases 15 minutes each, including discussion)
Discussants: Rosa Cortese (Siena), Alvino Bisecco (Napoli)

18:15–18:30 Conclusions and closing remarks
Rosa Cortese (Siena), Alvino Bisecco (Naples), Matteo Gastaldi (Pavia)

Scientific Rationale

Neuroimmunology is one of the most rapidly evolving fields in Neurology. Continuous updates are essential, as accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment choices are crucial for patient outcomes. Advancements in neuroimaging techniques have greatly improved diagnostic accuracy and differential diagnoses, allowing for earlier treatment. This course, designed for young neurologists and neuroradiologists, aims to train professionals on the latest neuroimaging techniques for autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system and introduce quantitative neuroimaging concepts to foster future clinical applications and research projects.

The Summer School structure, small group work, and close interaction between tutors and participants aim to significantly impact clinical practice and encourage the creation of new professional networks for future clinical and research collaborations.

Expected Participants: 30

Elegible Professionals:

Graduates in Medicine and Surgery specializing in Neurology, Radiodiagnostics, and Neuroradiology, Biology

Venue:

*Santa Chiara Lab – University of Siena
Via Val di Montone, 1, 53100 Siena SI, Italy*

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