

Rare Neuroimmunologic Disorders: An Overview (Or why are we all here?)

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Rare Neuroimmunologic Disorders (NIDs): What are the hurdles that limit us?

- **These are a group of conditions that may be:**
 - Unfamiliar to clinicians
 - Unheralded by any antecedent warning signs
 - Rapid in their onset and progression
 - Difficult to diagnose
 - Lacking in a uniform approach to treatment
 - Variable in their response to treatment
 - Highly divergent in their eventual outcomes

Rare NIDs: What are some of the common themes we will hear about?

- **These are a group of conditions that:**
 - Likely develop as a result of some specific triggering event
 - Are driven by aberrant and/or excessive immune responses
 - Occur in tissues that ordinarily have limited exposure to the immune system
 - Occur in tissues with limited regenerative capacity

Rare NIDs: How can we position ourselves to better attack these disease?

- **Develop uniform disease definitions or diagnostic criteria**
- **Establish specialized clinical centers**
- **Aggressively recruit patients to these facilities**
- **Collect data on *every* patient**
- **Create sample and tissue repositories**
- **Use forums such as this meeting to develop rational treatment protocols and clinical trials**

Conclusions

- **Although diverse, many rare NIDs share common pathogenetic mechanisms**
- **Specialized centers focused on diagnosis and treatment of rare NIDs are being developed**
- **Advances in neuroimaging and selective immunotherapy will improve our ability to diagnose and treat rare NIDs**