

Webinar

Date: Saturday 24th September 2022

Time: 10 am – 11.30am (NZST)

Location: On Zoom



New Zealand
Multiple Sclerosis
Research Trust

Knowledge brings hope

The Hot Topic



While the cause of multiple sclerosis (MS) is still unconfirmed, research globally is increasingly making ground-breaking discoveries. Understanding the cause will aid researchers in one day uncovering a cure. One of the top suspects in the race to find the cause is Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV). EBV is a herpes virus that can cause infectious mononucleosis. The virus is a life-long infection. Approximately 95% of adults are infected by EBV, most unknowingly. Studies globally are focussing in on EBV and we have two of the top international researchers sharing their exciting research and findings in this exciting webinar.



Our first speaker

Dr Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH, FAAN

Dr Wallin is currently Director, VA MS Center of Excellence-East, based at the Baltimore VA Medical Center, Professor of Neurology at George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington as well as DC and Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Through funding from the National MS Society, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Merit Review system, NIH and other sources he has used large population cohorts to address clinical and epidemiological problems and has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Dr. Wallin's research and writing over the past 20 years has focused on neuroepidemiology, neuroinfections and multiple sclerosis (MS). Dr Wallin will present a review of the EBV story from the Ascherio Group who have been investigating the connection between EBV and MS. The researchers conducted a study among more than 10 million young adults on active duty in the US military and identified 955 people who were diagnosed with MS during their period of service. Dr Wallin's work with the VA healthcare system is working on confirmatory data using the same US military veterans sera.

Our second speaker

Dr Corey Smith

Dr Smith is Head of the Translational and Human Immunology laboratory at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Melbourne. His work has focused heavily upon understanding T-cell mediated control of viral infections in humans, including Epstein Barr Virus (EBV), and the development of novel therapies to

treat disease associated with these common viral infections. This work has been translated into multiple clinical trials in head and neck cancer, brain cancer, organ transplant recipients and multiple sclerosis. This work has now been licensed for commercial development by Atara Biotherapeutics, who are developing a T-cell based therapy approach that targets Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) in MS patients.



Panel discussion

This will follow both presentations and the webinar will be recorded for viewing at a later date. Zoom details will be sent with your confirmation email.

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