February 2021

MGNet Newsletter
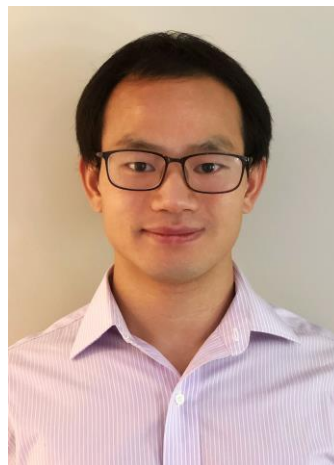
Consortium Updates

General Program Updates

NEW **MGNet Announces 2021 MGNet Scholar**

We would like to extend our appreciation to all who applied for the 2021 MGNet Scholar Award Program and want to recognize *Dr. Kevin Li,* **PhD**, Department of Neurology Duke University School of Medicine for being 2021 MGNet Scholar!

Dr. Li is a Postdoctoral Associate with over 10 years of professional training in Medicine and neurology, and a concentration in autoimmune neuromuscular disease. He has led several supervised research projects, and applied advanced immunological research techniques. Dr. Li has years of experience in MG clinical practice and clinical trials which makes him an excellent candidate to enhance clinical trial readiness and the discovery of biomarkers in this rare disease.

Dr. Li's proposed project, "Investigation of CD8 T cells immune signatures in myasthenia gravis" will help develop a comprehensive understanding of the CD8 T cell response in MG patients and define immune signatures of CD8 T cells in IS naïve MG as well as predictive biomarkers of clinical response to IS.

NEW   **MGNet Clinical Outcome Measures Symposium**

MGNet held a successful symposium on Dec 2, 2020 and Dec 8, 2020 bringing together clinicians, researchers and patient advocacy partners. The goal of the symposium was to bring forth perceived issues with existing MG outcome measures that impact standardization in clinical trials. MGNet will collate recommendations to determine appropriate solutions and training materials for implementation in clinical trials.

UPDATE   **MGNet Pilot Program**

The Pilot Program received a total of 4 applications for 2021 funding year. Applicants were invited to submit their full proposal which will be due March 12, 2021.

2021 MGNet Annual Symposium

Annual MGNet symposium will likely be held in the spring time and more information about this year's symposium is forthcoming.

Research Studies Updates

Explore MG 2 Study -
Site Activation and Enrollment Update

MGNet's EXPLORE MG 2 study is off the ground with the **six sites** activated, ready for subject enrollment. The sites indicated below have their contracts fully executed, completed required regulatory/sIRB documentations as well as required staff trainings.

*As of February 2021, a total of 9 **subjects** have been enrolled across sites!

Duke University (2)
George Washington University (2)
Massachusetts General Hospital (4)
University of Chicago
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Yale University (1)

ADAPT-teleMG Study

This virtual pilot study will evaluate MG tele-health visits to determine if outcome assessment

tools administered in a virtual setting are valid and reliable. This study protocol and ICF template have been submitted at the study level at Duke and sites are currently preparing to complete reliance documents to submit to sIRB at Duke. This study expects to enroll subjects in parallel with Explore MG2.

In addition, this study was selected for the **Rare Disease Clinical Trial Innovation Panel** and was presented on Dec 15, 2020 at EveryLife Foundation 2020 Scientific Workshop.

Learn More

Project 3 : MuSK MG Study

The O'Connor Laboratory at Yale demonstrated that MuSK MG autoantibody precursors are present in the naive B cell repertoire and that they must acquire exceptionally high binding affinity and participate in subunit swapping with innocuous antibodies to attain their pathogenic properties. These findings have offered new insights into the mechanism of pathogenic autoantibody production in MuSK MG and suggest that targeting of high-affinity MuSK-specific B cells, autoantibodies, or the subunit swapping process may represent feasible therapeutic strategies for treating MuSK MG. The study results were recently published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine (*J Ex Med.* 217(12):e20200513. *PMID: 32820331*).

MGNet Clinical Research Educational Initiatives

MGNet is devoted to patient education and plans to increase its educational efforts, collaborating with patient advocacy groups to help raise awareness about clinical trials, benefits of participation and ways to participate among all under-represented groups. We have generated a variety of content that incorporates videos, infographics to engage our patient

population. In addition, an important aspect of enhancing clinical trial performance is inclusivity. Thus, MGNet is currently working to translate all of its educational materials into Spanish.

We currently just finished finalizing this educational video for MG and the rare disease patient community titled "How are research participants protected?"

Watch Video

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