

Regional 2025 RNDs

connect. care. cure.™

A one-day educational conference for those
affected by rare neuroimmune disorders

Saturday, October 4, 2025
Atlanta, GA

Hosted by



Siegel
Rare Neuroimmune
Association



Children's™
Healthcare of Atlanta



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Inspired by **patients.**
Driven by **science.**

Welcome to the 2025 Regional RNDS — The one-day educational conference for those affected by rare neuroimmune disorders — acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), MOG antibody disease (MOGAD), neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD), optic neuritis (ON), and transverse myelitis (TM). This conference is dedicated to the exchange of information regarding diagnosis, research, and treatment strategies. It is also an opportunity to bring together the community of individuals diagnosed with rare neuroimmune disorders, families, caregivers, and the medical professionals who are specializing in these disorders. **The event will take place at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, October 4, 2025.**

Objectives

- Gather an understanding of the knowledge to date on the biology, causes and diagnosis of rare neuroimmune disorders and how they relate to each other,
- Learn about the latest research advances, and strategies for management and treatment.

Audience

This conference is open to all individuals diagnosed with rare neuroimmune disorders, their families, and care partners. Healthcare professionals interested in these disorders are also welcome to attend.

Program Overview (TIMES LISTED IN ET)

Saturday October 4

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| 8:30 - 9:00 am | Breakfast, registration and meet and greet
Let us know you have arrived, collect your badge and network with attendees and speakers, and meet our sponsors and exhibitors. |
| 9:00 - 9:15 am | Welcome Remarks
<i>Grace Gombolay, MD Emory University School of Medicine / Children's Healthcare of Atlanta</i>

Join Dr. Grace Gombolay as we open the day with a warm welcome, outline what to expect from the day's sessions, and reflect on the power of connection and learning in our rare neuroimmune community. |
| 9:15 - 10:00 am | Understanding diagnosis of rare diseases: ADEM, AFM, MOGAD, NMOSD, ON, and TM
<i>Grace Gombolay, MD Emory University School of Medicine / Children's Healthcare of Atlanta</i>
<i>Spencer Hutto, MD Emory University School of Medicine</i>
<i>Jacqueline Rosenthal, MD Shepherd Center</i>
<i>Varun Kannan, MD Emory University School of Medicine / Children's Healthcare of Atlanta</i>

A panel of experts will discuss how these disorders are diagnosed, what makes them unique, and the importance of early and accurate recognition to guide care and treatment. |

Program Overview ...CONTINUED

10:00 - 10:45 am Upcoming Therapies for MOG and NMOSD; Long term therapeutics

Michael Levy, MD, PhD | Massachusetts General Hospital

This session will share insights into new therapies on the horizon and discuss long-term treatment strategies for MOGAD and NMOSD to support better outcomes over time.

10:45 - 11:00 am BREAK

11:00 - 11:30 am Cognition, depression; psychological impacts and rare neuroimmune disorders

Yuri Shishido, PhD | Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Avjola Hoxha, MD | Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

This session will explore the cognitive and emotional challenges that can arise with rare neuroimmune disorders, and how understanding these impacts can lead to more holistic care.

11:30 - 12:15 pm Panel: Is it a relapse or recurrence? Deliberations on acute and long-term treatment guidance

Varun Kannan, MD | Emory University School of Medicine / Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Mitzi Joi Williams, MD | Joi Life Wellness Group

Gabriela Bou, MD | Emory University School of Medicine

Our expert panel will walk through how to distinguish between relapse and recurrence, and what this means for treatment planning, both in the moment and in the long run.

12:15 - 1:15 pm LUNCH AND MEET & GREET

1:15 - 2:00 pm Patient / Care partner panels

Moderator: Mitzi Joi Williams, MD | Joi Life Wellness Group

Hear directly from individuals living with a diagnosis and their caregivers as they share honest, personal reflections on navigating care, community, and daily life.

2:00 - 2:30 pm Rehabilitation and recovery in rare neuroimmune disorders

Jacqueline Rosenthal, MD | Shepherd Center

Recovery doesn't stop at treatment. This session focuses on rehab strategies that support people in regaining function, mobility, and confidence over time.

2:30 - 3:00 pm Tips and tricks to obtain access to care, including dealing with prior authorizations, appeals, and infusions; Transition from pediatric to adult care

Gwendolyn Carr, MSN, RN | Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Grace Gombolay, MD | Emory University School of Medicine / Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Diana Vargas, MD | Emory University School of Medicine

Get practical advice on navigating insurance and access hurdles, including how to manage transitions in care—from childhood to adulthood.

3:00 - 3:15 pm BREAK

Program Overview ...CONTINUED

3:15 - 4:00 pm

Symptom management panel

Grace Gombolay, MD | Emory University School of Medicine / Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Gabriela Bou, MD | Emory University School of Medicine

Bring your questions to this interactive Q&A session where our panel will address everyday symptom management—including topics like bladder care and beyond.

4:00 - 4:15 pm

What's new at SRNA: programs and events

GG deFiebre, PhD | Siegel Rare Neuroimmune Association

Learn more about the programs, tools, and opportunities SRNA offers to support individuals and families affected by rare neuroimmune conditions.

4:15 - 4:30 pm

Patient Access Resources: Panel Discussion

Representatives from industry partners will share information about patient access resources and support services available to help with navigating care.

4:30 - 5:15 pm

Research Updates

Discover what research is currently underway at Emory University, and how it may shape future treatments and understanding of rare neuroimmune diseases.

5:15 - 6:30 pm

EVENING RECEPTION

Wrap up the day by connecting with others in a relaxed setting. Whether you're continuing conversations from earlier sessions or meeting new people, this informal gathering is a space to get to know each other, reflect, share, and celebrate our community.

2025 SPONSORS

All educational content and programs are solely developed by SRNA staff, members of the SRNA scientific board and approved by SRNA Board of Directors.



Regional
2025 **RNDS**

Friday
October 4, 2025

Emory University
201 Dowman Dr
Atlanta, GA 30322

More info
srna.ngo/2025-rnds



SRNA
PO Box 826962
Philadelphia, PA 19182-6962

phone: +1 (855) 380-3330
email: info@wearesrna.org
website: wearesrna.org

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