Penn Neuromuscular Symposium 2024

5/18/2024, Philadelphia PA, USA

Organized by: Dr. Chafic Karam, University of Pennsylvania

Number of Attendees: ~50 in-person + ~60 online

UCB Attendees: Annette Bowen, AE; Steve McCalley, PhD, MSL; Anessa Pappas, TLL

Report created by: Steve McCalley, PhD for internal use only

Website: [Penn Neuromuscular Symposium 2024 - Penn Medicine - Continuing Education (CE) - Penn Neuromuscular Symposium 2024 (cloud-cme.com)](https://upenn.cloud-cme.com/course/courseoverview?P=5&EID=85780)

# Key Takeaways

* One of the main objectives of the meeting was to “describe novel treatments in myasthenia gravis.” To achieve this, Dr. Karissa Gable, MD from Duke University presented Updates in Myasthenia Gravis and highlighted Rystiggo, Zilbrysq, and all approved and upcoming therapies.
* UCB was a sponsor for the event with a table situated near the coffee/food; however, with a one-day symposium, time was limited for networking opportunities. Still, continued support is advised.

# Background

The Penn Neuromuscular Symposium (PNS) was started in 2022 by Dr. Chafic Karam, making this meeting the 3rd annual event. The PNS is offered both in person and virtual with CME available for physicians. While this symposium is not usually the most well-attended meeting of the year, it does draw a crowd from the greater Philadelphia area, with some attendees coming from neighboring regions like Washington DC or New York. The content of the meeting is largely didactic and a review of published literature in the field of neuromuscular medicine. This year, the lectures were broken up with case presentations given by Penn residents. As detailed below, there was one lecture and one case study on myasthenia gravis.

# Lectures of Interest

## Updates in Myasthenia Gravis

* Presented by Dr. Karissa Gable, MD Associate Professor of Neurology, Neuromuscular Disease at Duke Health, Durham NC, USA ([Karissa L. Gable, MD | Neurologist | Duke Health](https://www.dukehealth.org/find-doctors-physicians/karissa-l-gable-md))
* Dr. Gable started the presentation by noting the difficulty to review all of the newly approved and upcoming therapies in MG in the short amount of time
* Complement inhibitors
  + Dr. Gable spent the most amount of time speaking about eculizumab and called it “like a miracle for my patients”
  + Dr. G. spoke about zilucoplan and highlighted that all primary and secondary endpoints were met “which is always a good sign” when compared to other C5 trials
  + Upcoming therapeutics like gefurulimab, pozelimab and cemdisaran (as monotherapy, combination therapy, and in LRP4 MG patients), and Iptacopan, which is an oral medication with potentially greater efficacy than ecu/ravu
* FcRn inhibitors
  + Retreatment pattern for FcRns, for Dr. G., is to start with a 6 week off-period and reanalyze from there
  + Noted efgart and efgart-SC, but did not care for the inability to use efgart-SC at home
  + The mentions of Rystiggo were restricted to the phase 3 MycarinG published data
* Others
  + Mentioned cytokine and chemokine inhibitors as well as CAR-T and CAAR-T therapies with excitement
* The take-home message was that there are a lot of options but cost and access are always going to be an issue
* Question: Do you have any experience with Firdapse and MuSK+ MG patients? The trial failed overall, but patients reported feeling better.