

ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 Preview – Clinical and AI/ML



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ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 – New Trends in MS Treatment (1/3)



• **BTK inhibition is moving from mechanism to Phase 3 differentiation**

- ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 will bring Phase 3 data for multiple BTK inhibitors into one programme: fenebrutinib (FENhance 1 and 2, FENTrepid), remibrutinib (REMODEL-1/-2) and tolebrutinib (HERCULES), alongside orelabrutinib Phase 3 designs in progressive MS. Four industry presentations and a dedicated Hot Topic will address differences across BTKi. The competitive question will be whether selectivity, CNS penetration and progressive-biology endpoints separate the class



• **Cell therapy is emerging as the next step beyond B-cell depletion**

- The programme will dedicate a Free Communications session to cellular therapy, featuring zola-cel (Breakfree-2), allogeneic CD19 CAR T (TG-Azercel-101) and dual-target CD19/BCMA approaches. A Burning Debate on whether CAR T is better than monoclonal antibodies and a BMS Canada session on immune reset are set to frame the discussion. The key question will be whether depth of B-cell depletion justifies the safety and implementation burden





- **Progression biology is becoming a primary target, beyond relapse control**

- Sessions will centre on PIRA, smouldering inflammation and chronic active lesions, including paramagnetic rim lesions, slowly expanding lesions, the choroid plexus and brain-border immunology. Industry sessions from Sanofi, Roche, Novartis and Immunic Therapeutics are set to frame compartmentalised CNS inflammation and neuroprotection (Nurr1) as unmet needs. The key question will be which biomarkers can credibly show an effect on progression



- **Early high-efficacy therapy is shifting from evidence debate to implementation**

- Roche, Novartis and EMD Serono sessions will examine why escalation persists despite evidence for early high-efficacy therapy, while abstracts are scheduled to compare escalation with early HET on PIRA and test anti-CD20 choices (OVERLORD-MS, ofatumumab vs ocrelizumab). Ocrelizumab SC (OCARINA II) and natalizumab personalised dosing (SUPERNEXT) add a delivery dimension. The competitive question will be how anti-CD20 agents differentiate





• **NMOSD and MOGAD are becoming a crowded and differentiated competitive space**

- The programme will span satralizumab (Phase 3 METEOROID in MOGAD), tocilizumab (TOMATO), eculizumab in acute attacks (EASE-NMO), ravulizumab, inebilizumab and divozilimab, plus imlifidase and efgartigimod in acute NMOSD attacks. Five industry sessions from Roche (with Chugai), Alexion, Amgen and UCB will focus on rare neuroimmunology. The key question will be how sequencing and MOGAD-specific evidence reshape treatment choice



• **Diagnosis and lifecycle care are being unified under new criteria and guidance**

- The 2024 McDonald criteria will run through 'Diagnosis Unified', a RIS session and multiple validation abstracts, covering optic nerve involvement (VISION-MS), central vein sign and kappa free light chains. Late-breaking 2026 ECTRIMS recommendations on family planning, pregnancy and breastfeeding and validation of the 2025 ECTRIMS DMT discontinuation recommendations will extend the theme across the lifespan





Key Sessions To Watch

Date	Session Title (short)	Type	Author / Institution	Why Watch
21 Oct 2026	Fenebrutinib vs Teriflunomide: FENhance 1 & 2 Pooled	Free Communications	Maria Pia Sormani	Pooled Phase 3 efficacy in RMS; a central test of how BTK inhibition performs against an active comparator
21 Oct 2026	Rituximab vs Ocrelizumab: OVERLORD-MS	Free Communications	Oivind Torkildsen	Randomised noninferiority data in newly diagnosed RMS that could inform anti-CD20 selection
22 Oct 2026	Satralizumab in Relapsing MOGAD: METEOROID Phase 3	Scientific Session	Romain Marignier	Phase 3 data on relapse severity and recovery in MOGAD, a key test for an emerging indication
22 Oct 2026	Eculizumab for Acute NMOSD Attack: EASE-NMO	Scientific Session	Wei Jiang	Phase 2 data testing complement inhibition in the acute-attack setting rather than maintenance
23 Oct 2026	Zola-cel CD19 CAR T: Breakfree-2 Update	Free Communications	Jeffrey A. Cohen	Updated safety and efficacy for CD19 CAR T in highly active relapsing and progressive MS
23 Oct 2026	Allogeneic CD19 CAR T: TG-Azercel-101	Scientific Session (Late Breaking)	Daniel Ontaneda	First clinical evaluation of an allogeneic CD19 CAR T in progressive MS
23 Oct 2026	Fenebrutinib on PRLs & SELs: FENhance / FENTrepid	Scientific Session (Late Breaking)	Jiwon Oh	Tests whether BTK inhibition shifts imaging markers of progressive biology in RMS and PPMS
23 Oct 2026	Remibrutinib vs Teriflunomide: REMODEL-1/-2	Scientific Session (Late Breaking)	Heinz Wiendl	Phase 3 RMS results for a further BTK inhibitor, read alongside fenebrutinib data at the same congress

Industry-Sponsored Sessions & Focus Areas





ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 – Competitive Landscape (1/2)

Name	Sessions	Companies / Assets	Why It Matters
BTK inhibition in relapsing & progressive MS	Multiple	Roche / fenebrutinib; Sanofi / tolebrutinib; Zenas BioPharma and InnoCare / orelabrutinib; remibrutinib; Novartis BTKi session	ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 will test whether BTK inhibitors differentiate on selectivity, CNS penetration and effects on progressive biology such as PRLs and SELs
Anti-CD20 & B-cell-directed therapy	Multiple	Roche / ocrelizumab (IV & SC); Novartis / ofatumumab; TG Therapeutics / ublituximab; rituximab; Zenas BioPharma / obexelimab	The congress will examine how anti-CD20 agents compete on route, long-term safety and cost, and whether non-cytolytic B-cell inhibition offers a distinct profile
CAR T & immune reset	Multiple	Bristol Myers Squibb / zola-cel; BMS Canada session; Novartis / YTB323; azercel; Imviva Biotech / CTA313; Kyverna / miv-cel (stiff person syndrome)	The focus will be whether early CD19 and dual-target CAR T data show durable control with acceptable neurotoxicity, and in which MS populations
Non-relapsing progression & neuroprotection	Multiple	Immunic Therapeutics / vidofludimus calcium (Nurr1); Sanofi / frexalimab; Tiziana / foralumab; metformin & clemastine; Brenig / BT-409	Discussion is set to test whether mechanisms beyond peripheral immunomodulation can slow progression in populations with limited options



ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 – Competitive Landscape (2/2)

Name	Sessions	Companies / Assets	Why It Matters
NMOSD: complement, IL-6 & B-cell strategies	Multiple	Alexion / eculizumab, ravulizumab; Roche and Chugai / satralizumab; Amgen session; inebilizumab; BIOCAD / divozilimab	NMOSD sessions will focus on long-term control, sequencing after suboptimal response and family planning as multiple mechanisms compete
MOGAD & acute-attack therapy	Multiple	Roche / satralizumab (METEOROID); tocilizumab (TOMATO); UCB MOG-IgG showcase; imlifidase; efgartigimod; eculizumab (EASE-NMO)	Phase 3 MOGAD data and acute-attack studies will test whether MOGAD and acute NMOSD relapses become distinct treatment segments
Established DMT optimisation & de-escalation	Multiple	EMD Serono (IRT session); cladribine; Novartis / ofatumumab; siponimod (NEOS); Bristol Myers Squibb / ozanimod; natalizumab	Real-world, paediatric and discontinuation data will shape how established therapies are positioned across age groups, pregnancy and treatment exit
Biomarkers, imaging & diagnostics	Multiple	Roche Elecsys NfL; Siemens Atellica NfL; κFLC; GFAP; PRL and CVS imaging; OCT	Sessions will show fluid and imaging biomarkers moving into diagnosis and monitoring; the question will be which become standard in routine care and trials



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions (1/6)

✓ • Roche:

- Focus Areas: Ocrelizumab SC, BTK Inhibition, Early HET & NMOSD/MOGAD
- Roche sessions will cover ocrelizumab SC and Phase 3 OCARINA II, early high-efficacy intervention and BTK inhibition across peripheral and CNS mechanisms, alongside IL-6 in rare neuroimmunological conditions and satralizumab real-world evidence

✓ • Sanofi:

- Focus Areas: Tolebrutinib, SPMS, Immune Network Dysregulation & RMS Benchmarks
- Sanofi's programme will centre on tolebrutinib in SPMS without relapses, including HERCULES efficacy and safety outcomes. A second presentation is set to frame MS as immune network dysregulation involving CNS border tissues, and an Industry Showcase will challenge conventional treatment benchmarks in RMS



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions (2/6)

✓ • **Novartis:**

- Focus Areas: BTK Inhibitors, Early High-Efficacy Therapy & Women's Health
- Novartis will challenge continued reliance on treatment escalation and highlight the need to translate evidence supporting early high-efficacy treatment into clinical practice. Its BTK inhibitor session will focus on the potential to address unmet needs across the MS continuum, while a separate patient-focused discussion will examine treatment decisions around family planning and early motherhood

✓ • **EMD Serono:**

- Focus Areas: Immune Reconstitution Therapy, Early HET & Machine Learning
- EMD Serono will position integrated MS management around durable disease control, balancing efficacy and safety through IRT and long-term evidence. The inclusion of biomarkers and machine learning will highlight opportunities to refine treatment decisions, while case-based discussions will connect these approaches with practical management across the disease continuum



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions (3/6)

✓ • **Zenas BioPharma:**

- Focus Areas: **BTK Inhibition in Progressive MS & Non-Cytolytic B-Cell Inhibition**
- Zenas will focus on the biological drivers of progressive MS and the rationale for targeting both B-cell and innate immune pathways. Discussion of CNS penetration, selectivity, potency and durability will highlight the importance of differentiating BTK inhibitors by their pharmacological and clinical profiles

✓ • **Immunic Therapeutics:**

- Focus Areas: **Nurr1 & Neuroprotection**
- Immunic will extend the discussion beyond immune-mediated inflammation toward neuroprotection and neuronal survival. This positioning will underscore the continuing need for approaches that address disability accumulation even when inflammatory disease activity is controlled



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions (4/6)

✓ • **Alexion (AstraZeneca Rare Disease):**

- Focus Areas: C5 Inhibition in AQP4-Ab+ NMOSD
- Alexion will reinforce the clinical evidence supporting complement C5 inhibition in AQP4-antibody-positive NMOSD. The inclusion of real-world experience and family-planning considerations will connect treatment efficacy and safety with longer-term decisions for patients

✓ • **Amgen:**

- Focus Areas: Long-Term Disease Control & Treatment Sequencing in NMOSD
- Amgen's session will address what long-term success looks like in NMOSD, how to recognise suboptimal response beyond clinical relapse and treatment sequencing informed by real-world evidence. It will add a sequencing angle to a crowded NMOSD industry programme



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions (5/6)

✓ • **BMS Canada:**

- Focus Areas: CAR T Cell Therapy & Immune Reset in MS
- The presentation will explain the rationale for CAR T in MS and review emerging evidence on safety signals, depth of B-cell depletion and efficacy, plus implementation considerations. The session will focus on its mechanistic rationale, early evidence and clinical implementation considerations, highlighting interest in immune-reset strategies beyond established B-cell-depleting approaches

✓ • **UCB:**

- Focus Areas: MOG-IgG & MOGAD Pathogenesis
- UCB will focus on the role of MOG antibodies in disease biology and their relationship to clinical manifestations and relapse risk. This will support greater understanding of disease mechanisms in MOGAD and their implications for clinical assessment



Key Industry-Sponsored Sessions (6/6)

✓ • **Coloplast:**

- Focus Areas: **Bladder & Bowel Dysfunction in MS**
- Coloplast will draw attention to bladder and bowel symptoms that can be overlooked during MS management despite their impact on quality of life. The session will reinforce the importance of addressing supportive-care needs alongside disease-modifying treatment

✓ • **Genentech-supported CME (Vindico Medical Education; EfficientCME / CME Outfitters):**

- Focus Areas: **2024 Criteria, BTKi Sequencing & Digital Monitoring**
- Two CE symposia supported by educational grants from Genentech will apply the 2024 diagnostic criteria to real-world cases and discuss emerging BTK inhibitors and their anticipated sequencing, alongside biomarkers, digital monitoring tools and a spectrum-based view of MS



Emerging Assets & Development Areas

Asset / Company	2026 Presence
Fenebrutinib (Roche)	Late-breaking oral (23 Oct) on paramagnetic rim lesion and slowly expanding lesion outcomes in the Phase 3 FENhance 1/2 and FENTrepid trials in relapsing and primary progressive MS; FENhance 1 and 2 pooled efficacy also scheduled (21 Oct)
Remibrutinib	Efficacy and safety of remibrutinib vs teriflunomide in relapsing multiple sclerosis: results of the Phase 3 REMODEL-1/-2 trials
Orelabrutinib (Zenas BioPharma; InnoCare)	Efficacy and safety of orelabrutinib in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis: 24-week results of the 80 mg dose from a Phase 2 study; Phase 3 Monarch (nrSPMS) and PriMroSe (PPMS) designs
Zola-cel (Bristol Myers Squibb)	Safety and efficacy of zola-cel, a CD19-directed CAR T cell therapy, in highly active relapsing and progressive forms of MS: updated findings from the Phase 1 Breakfree-2 study
Azercel (TG-Azercel-101)	First clinical evaluation of an allogeneic CD19-directed CAR T-cell therapy in progressive multiple sclerosis: initial results from the Phase 1 TG-Azercel-101 study
Obexelimab (Zenas BioPharma)	24-week results from the MoonStone Phase 2 trial in relapsing multiple sclerosis, plus MoonStone biomarker and PK/PD posters (22 Oct)
Frexalimab (Sanofi)	Phase 3 FREVIVA trial of frexalimab in non-relapsing secondary progressive multiple sclerosis: baseline demographics and clinical characteristics
Vidofludimus calcium (Immunic Therapeutics)	Evaluation of disability outcomes from the open-label extension of CALLIPER: a Phase 2 trial of vidofludimus calcium in progressive multiple sclerosis



AI / Digital Health Angle at ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 (1/3)

- **AI is moving from MRI automation toward prognosis and decision support**
 - ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 will feature a dedicated Scientific Session, 'Artificial Intelligence Applications from Diagnosis to Prognosis', and an iAIMS educational session on practical AI tools. Abstracts will span deep-learning lesion segmentation, central vein sign and paramagnetic rim lesion detection and AI-generated DIR, including a randomised clinical trial of AI-assisted MRI for detecting disease activity in clinical practice
- **Machine learning is being applied to prediction across the disease course**
 - Scheduled studies apply ML to predict RIS and CIS conversion, transition to SPMS, PIRA from smartphone keystroke data and MS onset from EBV-related antibodies, as well as individual treatment response. The key question will be whether these models generalise beyond development cohorts and change clinical decisions
- **Key sessions include:**
 - Artificial Intelligence Applications from Diagnosis to Prognosis
 - Understanding AI in MS: Practical Tools for Clinicians and Researchers (organised by iAIMS)
 - Digital Assessments in MS
 - What Can AI Do for MS Rehabilitation



AI / Digital Health Angle at ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 (2/3)

- Overcoming Barriers for AI and Big Data
- Beyond the Prompt: Leveraging Large Language Models for MS Care and Research
- Smartphone Keystroke Monitoring to Predict Progression Independent of Relapse in Multiple Sclerosis: A machine-learning-based evaluation
- Optimizing MRI Input Modalities for Automated Detection of Paramagnetic Rim Lesions in MS
- Evaluating AI-assisted MRI for detection of disease activity in clinical practice – a randomised clinical trial
- MS-Neuroscore: An AI-Powered Platform for Continuous Monitoring and Clinical Decision Support in Multiple Sclerosis (Late Breaking)
- Phase 1 Study of BT-409, an AI-Discovered Potent, Selective, Brain-Penetrant Oral NLRP3 inhibitor
- **Sessions suggest AI and digital tools are increasingly being used to improve:**
 - MRI lesion segmentation and detection of new disease activity
 - Detection of diagnostic imaging markers (central vein sign, paramagnetic rim lesions, cortical lesions)
 - Prediction of conversion (RIS, CIS) and progression (SPMS, PIRA)
 - Individual treatment-response prediction



AI / Digital Health Angle at ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026 (3/3)

- Differential diagnosis across MS, NMOSD and MOGAD
- Clinical interpretation, documentation and EDSS scoring using language models and NLP
- Remote monitoring of gait, cognition and sleep
- Drug discovery (AI-discovered NLRP3 inhibitor)
- **Large language models are being tested for clinical interpretation and communication**
 - Scheduled abstracts [benchmark five LLMs in therapeutic decision-making, explore LLMs for clinical interpretation and compare patient-rated empathy of LLM versus neurologist responses](#), while rule-based NLP automates EDSS scoring from clinic notes. Educational content on how to interpret AI studies and tools signals attention to validation and appropriate use
- **Digital biomarkers beyond AI are maturing toward validated remote monitoring**
 - Separate from AI, a Hot Topic on wearables, passive data collection and learning health systems is supported by [a dedicated digital biomarkers poster track covering smartwatches, smart insoles, smartphone gait and cognitive games](#), and software such as MSCopilot® and NMOSDCopilot (OPTIS study). The question will be whether these measures can become sensitive endpoints for progression



What We're Watching for Post-ECTRIMS-ECTRIMS 2026

- Whether **BTK inhibitors differentiate** on selectivity, CNS penetration and progressive-biology endpoints as fenebrutinib, remibrutinib, tolebrutinib and orelabrutinib data accumulate
- Whether **CAR T therapy shows durable benefit with acceptable neurotoxicity** that supports use beyond refractory and progressive populations
- Whether **PRLs, SELs and fluid biomarkers such as NfL and GFAP** become accepted measures of treatment effect on progression
- Whether **evidence for early high-efficacy therapy translates into practice change**, including anti-CD20 choice after OVERLORD-MS and the shift to SC delivery
- Whether **MOGAD becomes a distinct treatment segment** following satralizumab (METEOROID) and tocilizumab (TOMATO) data
- Whether **NMOSD sequencing and acute-attack therapies** such as eculizumab, imlifidase and efgartigimod reshape long-term management
- Whether **non-relapsing progression attracts new mechanisms**, including Nurr1-linked neuroprotection, frexalimab, foralumab and remyelination approaches
- Whether **AI and digital biomarkers move from validation to routine monitoring**, particularly AI-assisted MRI and smartphone-based measures



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