

2021 MDA VIRTUAL CLINICAL & SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE



The 2021 MDA Virtual Clinical & Scientific Conference will take place March 15-18 in an all-virtual environment, with scheduled live-broadcast sessions, on-demand videos, virtual networking sessions, exhibits, and poster sessions. This means you do not have to travel to any specific location; you can participate anywhere you have internet access from a desktop, mobile, or tablet device.

Our Clinical & Scientific Conference will bring researchers, academics, clinicians, allied health professionals, advocates, and industry leaders together virtually. [Register here](#) to join them in exploring timely topics, unprecedented research advancements, and clinical achievement in neuromuscular disease.

Informative and engaging

While this year's format is different, the Clinical & Scientific Conference still features an [unparalleled agenda](#) filled with content that is timely and relevant to our professional community.

"There are a lot of important topics this year," says Jeffrey Statland, MD, an associate professor of neurology at the University of Kansas Medical Center and chair of the session Clinical Trials in the Age of COVID-19 on March 17.

His is one of two sessions that address how the novel coronavirus has impacted our community. "It's hard to think of a thing we do that hasn't been impacted by the pandemic," he says. "It's affected who we see, how we see them, and it's also affected clinical trials."

In *Clinical Trials in the Age of COVID-19*, researchers will detail how they have adapted trials to keep them running during the pandemic. By adjusting how they interact with trial participants and collect and review data, researchers have ensured that valuable research on neuromuscular disease continues. In addition, they are learning lessons that are sure to impact how clinical trials are run in the future. "[The pandemic] is challenging our notion of the centralized clinical trial," Dr. Statland says.

Among other sessions at the conference, Dr. Statland is looking forward to an update on MDA's MOVR Data Hub and notes that "everybody is thinking about gene-targeted therapies." The agenda includes a number of sessions exploring this promising field, as well as ethics related to these new therapies. "I think there's a nice balance of topics," he says.

Session highlights

Here are some of this year's most anticipated sessions:

Clinical Trials in the Age of COVID-19

Session chair: Jeffrey Statland, MD

Impact of COVID-19 on Neuromuscular Disease Care

Session Chair: Erin Springer, RN, MSN

Ethical Considerations in Gene Therapy Trials

Session Chair: Kevin Flanigan, MD

Gene Editing in Neuromuscular Disease

Session Chair: Eric Olson, PhD

MOVR & Real World Evidence

Session Chair: Rayne Rodger, MPH

New Biomarkers in Neuromuscular Disease Research

Session Chair: Elizabeth McNally, MD, PhD

Telehealth in Neuromuscular Disease Care

Session Chair: Mario Saporta, MD, PhD, MBA, FAAN

Register Today!

[Register here](#) for the 2021 MDA Clinical & Scientific Conference. Find more information about the conference, including the full agenda, at mdaconference.org.