Information about the Steering Committee

The MS education subcommittee, an effort of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) MS Section with the administrative and financial support of ACTRIMS, has been working at a national level to transition neuroimmunology fellowships to a Match process beginning with the 2023-4 application cycle. Our goal is to make the fellowship application and selection process one that is equitable to both applicants and programs. The Match will be facilitated by SF Match and will be sponsored by ACTRIMS.

The MS Education subcommittee was convened as an initiative of AAN's MS Section in 2018. It was initially comprised of Drs Erin Longbrake, Le Hua and Ahmed Obeidat; through their efforts groundwork was laid describing the state of neuroimmunology education in the United States.[1] [2] A committee of stakeholders representing program directors (large and small programs) as well as all major MS organizations subsequently worked to publish a consensus curriculum for neuroimmunology.[3] Over time, additional members were recruited or volunteered to participate in a Neuroimmunology Fellowship Education steering committee. The current committee consists of Lilyana Amezcua (USC, NMSS National Medical Advisory Committee member), Ahmed Obeidat (Medical College of Wisconsin), Jeffrey Cohen (Cleveland Clinic), Le Hua (Cleveland Clinic – Nevada), Salim Chahin (Washington University), Jennifer Graves (UCSD) and Erin Longbrake (Yale). The committee continues to work closely with the AAN MS Section (current chair, Elliot Frohman) and ACTRIMS.

Fellowship Type(s)

At this time, the Match will be used only for individuals applying for one-year clinical positions. It would not apply to individuals looking for a multi-year, research-based fellowship. For this cycle, we do not plan to include fellowships specifically targeting Pediatric Neuroimmunology or Autoimmune Neurology. There are plans to expand the match process to include these other types of fellowship in the future.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must:

- hold an MD/DO or equivalent medical degree;
- be eligible to practice medicine in the United States; and
- have completed a Neurology, Pediatric Neurology or Physiatry residency.

Applicants holding J1 or H1b visas may apply, but not all programs are able to sponsor visas. Applicants must ensure that the institutions to which they are applying can support their visa status.

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[1] Hua LH, Obeidat AZ, Longbrake EE. Outcomes and future directions for neuroimmunology/multiple sclerosis fellowship training: Survey of recent trainees. Mult Scler Relat Disord 2020;44:102296.

[2] Obeidat AZ, Jassam YN, Hua LH, et al. Education Research: Multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology fellowship training status in the United States. Neurology 2020;94:495-500.

[3] Hua LH, Obeidat AZ, Amezcua L, et al. Consensus Curriculum for Fellowship Training in Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology. Neurol Clin Pract 2021;11:352-357.

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Application Period

Applications would be open from September 1 - December 1 of 2023 with matches provided in March of 2024.

Fees

Applicant registration fee: $150

Application distribution fees increase progressively according to the number of programs to which the applicant applies. The SF Match will collect applications centrally and make them available to all programs the applicant chooses to apply to. Programs can download applications at any time, or obtain them as a batch at the end of the application period.

Initial distribution list fees for applicants are as follows:

1-10 programs	$60 flat fee
11-20 programs	$10/program
21-30 programs	$15/program
31-40 programs	$20/program
41 or more	$35/program

Program registration fee: $500 (this is a one-time event)
Program annual membership fee: $225 (due regardless of participation in the current match)

Applicants may rank as many programs as they have applied to. Programs may rank as many applicants as they choose.

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Timetable

Event	Date	Description
Program registration with SF Match	Friday, August 4, 2023	Programs must register with the SF Match, including payment of their registration fee and the annual fee. Registration is straightforward and can be completed online.
Applicant registration begins	Friday, September 1, 2023	Applicants can begin to register. All participating programs must have all their information up-to-date, including number of positions to be offered. Programs that do not have positions or have withdrawn from the current match cycle are automatically omitted from the Program Directory.
Target date for applicants to complete all application requirements	Friday, December 1, 2023	This date is set by SF Match. This is a suggested date for applicants to complete all the application requirements (complete/submit online forms, upload required documents, assign letters of reference and personal statements to which they are applying).
Interviews	Monday December 4, 2023 – Thursday February 29, 2024	Interviews are arranged by the applicant and program and may be virtual or in person
Rank List Deadline (12:00 PM PT)	Friday, March 1, 2024	Rank list deadline for both programs and applicants. All rank lists must be submitted by 12:00 PM (noon) PT. No rank lists or changes to submitted rank lists are allowed once the deadline has passed.
Match Results	Friday, March 15, 2024	@9:00 AM PT - Match results are emailed to programs and applicants and are available by logging in to the SF Match portal.
Post-match vacancies	Monday, March 18, 2024	@9:00 AM PT - Programs with unfilled positions that have signed up for auto-post, will be listed on the SF Match's vacancy page (auto-post option is available when submitting rank list). Programs manage their own vacancies. Once the match results are released, programs with unfilled positions that have selected auto post will be able to preview the listing and add more information if needed (or delete the vacancy if no longer desired). Programs with unfilled positions that did not select auto-post but wish to list their vacancies can create a listing on their own.
Training to begin	July, 2025	Matched applicants will begin training on this date.