



THE FIRST AND BIGGEST
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
LONG COVID AND ME/CFS
CONFERENCE

unitetofight2024.world

UP TO 17
CME POINTS
ACHIEVABLE

International Online Conference UniteToFight2024
15th – 16th May 2024, 8.30 am – 7.30 pm CEST

PROGRAM More than 20 hours with 35+ speakers

Dr. med Michael Kacik
Specialist in Internal Medicine and Angiology and Specialist in General Medicine, Member, Germany

Dr. Michael Stingl
Specialist in Neurology, Vienna, Austria

Oonagh Cousins
Visiting Research Fellow, University of Oxford, Ambassador for the Country Long Covid Support, Oxford, UK

Isabel Ramirez-Burnett
NSC-HWC, All-C Renegade Research CEO & Rampton/Stone project director, Rhode-Island, USA

Abigail Koppes
PhD, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, Northeastern University, Boston, USA

Bettina Grande
Psychological psychotherapist practicing in Heidelberg, Germany

Johan Van Weyenberg
Laboratory of Clinical and Experimental Immunology, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Transplantation, Rega Institute for Medical Research, Leuven, Belgium

Dr. David Putrino
Director of Rehabilitation Innovation at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City, USA

Dr. Rob Wüst
Assistant-Professor Muscle Metabolism at Vrije University Amsterdam, Heiloo/Hoofddorpe

Prof. Dr. Todd Dravnyak
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Physical Therapy at University of the Pacific in Stockton, USA

Prof. Akiko Iwasaki
PhD, Staffing Professor of Path Immunobiology, Yale University Investigator, HHMI, Connecticut, USA

Bhupesh K. Prusty
PhD, Professor of Science, Riga Stradins University, Riga, Latvia.

Pam Bishop
PhD, Long COVID Patient, Tennessee, USA

Prof. Dr. Carmen Schwaninger
Head of the Department of Neurology, University of Bonn, Germany

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Kretzschmar
Head of the Department of Neurology, University of Bonn, Germany



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- Event date** 15th – 16th May 2024 (all day)
- UniteToFight** Kim Schmid, Marco Wetzel, Diana Schneider, Christoph Zamaitat, Claus Ernst
- Event location** International online conference
- Registration** <https://unitetofight2024.world>
- Conference-Link** <https://conference.unitetofight2024.world>
- Program overview** <https://unitetofight2024.world/program>
- Participation fee** none/free of charge

Healthcare professionals please register separately for CME accreditation in the login area

- Step 1:** Please register on the website and select “Healthcare professional” from the selection list. <https://unitetofight2024.world>
- Step 2:** Please register separately in the login area for session blocks with CME accreditation <https://conference.unitetofight2024.world>

Up to 17 CME points can be acquired. The training blocks are marked accordingly in the event program. After successful participation, a confirmation of participation can be downloaded from the personal login area. CME points can be collected by Pharmacists, Physicians, Psychotherapists and Dentists (practicing in Germany; ask your local Chamber for recognition if you live in another country)

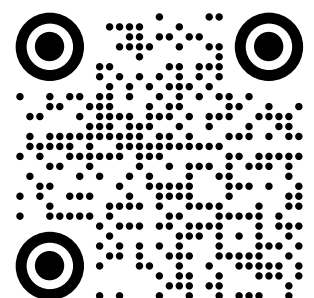
Converting time zones

To convert CEST (Central European Standard Time) to your time zone please use a tool like worldtimebuddy.com.

The screenshot shows the worldtimebuddy.com interface. At the top, it indicates a 11-hour difference from Berlin (CEST). Below, a list of cities is shown with their local times for Wednesday, May 15th and Thursday, May 16th. A vertical green line highlights the current time in Berlin, which is 8:30 AM on Wednesday, May 15th. Other cities shown include London (7:30 AM), New York (2:30 AM), Mexico City (12:30 AM), New Delhi (12:00 PM), Toronto (2:30 AM), Tokyo (3:30 AM), Cape Town (8:30 AM), Madrid (8:30 AM), and Beijing (2:30 AM).

Add the conference to your calendar

Google calendar <https://shorturl.at/amDZ5>
or Outlook/iCal <https://shorturl.at/INP0I>



Time (CEST)	Type	Topic	Speaker	CME Accreditation
8.45 am – 9.30 am	Opening Ceremony	<p>Prof. Dr. Karl Lauterbach, MdB Federal Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Germany,</p> <p>Marie-Therese Burka Chief Operations Officer/COO WE&ME Foundation, Vienna, Austria,</p> <p>Chantal Britt 2023 Viktor Award Winner and founder of Patient Organization Long Covid Switzerland</p> <p>Ed Yong Science Journalist and Winner of 2021 Pulitzer Prize</p> <p>Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, Director at Epidemic & Pandemic Preparedness & Prevention at WHO, Geneva, Switzerland</p> <p>Jordon Steele-John Member of Australian Greens, Senator for Western Australia, Perth, Australia.</p> <p>Dr. Stan Kutcher, Senator for Nova Scotia, Canada</p>		/
Block 1				1 CME-Point
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Session	Immunology of Long COVID	Prof. Daniel M. Altmann , Department of Immunology and Inflammation, Imperial College, Faculty of Medicine, London, UK	
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Session	Design and preliminary results of a patient-driven „grassroots“ clinical trial in a Belgian Long COVID cohort	Johan Van Weyenbergh , Lab of Clinical and Epidemiological Virology, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Transplantation, Rega Institute for Medical Research, Leuven, Belgium	
10.30 am – 10.40 am	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from Anil Van der Zee</i>		
Block 2				2 CME-Points
10.40 am – 11.10 am	Session	ME/CFS as part of the Post-COVID spectrum	Prof. Dr. Carmen Scheibenbogen , Head of Immunodeficiency Outpatient Clinic Charité Berlin, Germany	
11.10 am – 11.40 am	Session	Skeletal muscle function and post-exertional malaise in patients with Long-COVID	Dr. Rob Wüst , Assistant-Professor Muscle Metabolism at Vrije University Amsterdam, Netherlands	
11.40 am – 12.10 pm	Session	The role of microclots and platelet hyperactivation in LongCovid thrombotic endothelialitis	Prof. Dr. Resia Pretorius , Professor of Physiological Sciences at Stellenbosch University, South Africa	
12.10 pm – 12.40 pm	Session	Targeting the HDL Proteome for the Treatment of Post-COVID Syndrome	Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schieffer , Director University Heart Center Department of Cardiology, Angiology and Critical Care Medicine University Hospital, Marburg, Germany	
12.40 pm – 1.10 pm	Lunch ☺	<i>Video contributions from #ApresJ20 and Long Covid Support UK and NichtGenesen</i>		
Block 3				1 CME-Point
1.10 pm – 1.35 pm	Patient Perspective	A Patient Scientist: Navigating Academia with Long COVID	Abigail Koppes , PhD, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, Northeastern University, Boston, USA	
1.35 pm – 2.00 pm	Patient Perspective	Participatory Research Methods	Oonagh Cousins , Visiting Research Fellow, University of Oxford, Ambassador for the Charity Long Covid Support, Oxford, UK	
2.00 pm – 2.10 pm	Community Keynotes	Wail of a Tale discusses how they became embedded with the LC community and shares stories of women from marginalized communities	Marty Pack , M.A. Founder, Executive Director and Creative Producer Wail of a Tale Productions, non-profit educational documentary film organization, Ohio, USA	
2.10 pm – 2.20 pm	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from Stichting Long COVID (Long COVID Foundation Netherlands)</i>		

Block 4

2 CME-Points

2.20 pm – 2.50 pm	Session	From PASC Cardiovascular Involvement to Myoflame-19 RCT	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentina Puntmann , MD, PhD, FRCP Associate Professor at the Institute of Experimental and Cardiovascular Imaging, University Hospital Frankfurt, Germany
2.50 pm – 3.20 pm	Session	Pathogen persistence in Long COVID and ME/CFS: evidence and research considerations	Amy Proal, PhD , President/Chief Scientific Officer PolyBio Research Foundation, Boston, USA
3.20 pm – 3.50 pm	Session	Immunomodulation in Long COVID: the REVERSE-LC study as a pathway to discovery	Prof. E. Wesley Ely , MD MPH, Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Co-Director of CIBS Center, Nashville, USA
3.50 pm – 4.00 pm	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from Not Recovered UK</i>	

Block 5

1 CME-Point

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	Session	Immunology of Post-Acute Infection Syndromes	Prof. Akiko Iwasaki, PhD , Sterling Professor of Immunobiology, Yale University Investigator, HHMI, Connecticut, USA
4.30 pm – 4.50 pm	Patient Led Research	Catalyzing change with patient/caregiver led research	Tess Falor, PhD , Renegade Research and RemissionBiome founder, Denver, USA Isabel Ramirez-Burnett , NBC-HWC, AIP-C Renegade Research CEO & RemissionBiome project director, Rhode-Island, USA
4.50 pm – 5.20 pm	Session	Focus on Treatments and a Cure using Old Ideas and New Ideas	Prof. Dr. Ron Davis , Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics at Stanford, Director at Genome Tech Ctr, MECFS Collaborative Research Ctr and OMF Scientific Advisory Board, Stanford, USA
5.20 pm – 5.30 pm	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from Association of People with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (PEM) - ONG PEM</i>	

Block 6

1 CME-Point

5.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Session	A new frontier or the Same as Ever – Phenotyping based on responses to exertion (commonly) infection associated chronic conditions	Prof. Dr. Todd Davenport , Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Physical Therapy at University of the Pacific in Stockton, USA
6.00 pm – 6.30 pm	Session	The role of CPETS in determining the pathophysiology of Long COVID – the importance and need for objective caution	Prof. Dr. Mark Faghy , Professor of Clinical Exercise Science Biomedical and Clinical Research Theme University of Derby, Derby, UK
6.30 pm – 6.45 pm	Patient Led Research	Patient Led Research Collaborative Reinfections Study: Effect of reinfections on self-reported measures of post-exertional malaise (PEM)	Megan L. Fitzgerald , PhD, Patient Led Research Collaborative Reinfections Study Co-Lead, USA
6.45 pm – 7.00 pm	Session	Maintaining one's own identity despite PEM – How can psychotherapy support this?	Bettina Grande , Psychological psychotherapist practising in Heidelberg, Germany
7.00 pm – 7.10 pm	Community Keynotes	Occupational and Physical Therapy Perspective: Introductory Guide to Post-Exertional Malaise and Pacing for PEM	Clayton Powers , DPT, Doctor of Physical Therapy University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA Amy Mooney , MS OTR/L, Occupational Therapist, Chicago, USA
7.10 pm – 7.20 pm	Community Keynotes	Unlocking wearable technology to measure and manage Long Covid	Harry Leeming , CEO and Co-Founder of Visible Health
7.20 pm – 7.30 pm	Community Keynotes	The Long Covid Toolkit. Empowering people with Long Covid and their caregivers with actionable knowledge and tools	Edo Plantinga , Project Manager and Founder of Long Covid Toolkit Joanneke Van der Nagel , MD, PhD, Epidemiologist, Psychiatrist, Researcher, Founder of Long Covid Toolkit, Netherlands

Time (CEST)	Type	Topic	Speaker	CME Accreditation
Block 7				2 CME-Points
8.30 am – 9.00 am	Session	Long Covid Phenotyping as an aid to successful treatments	Dr. Rae Duncan , Consultant Cardiologist and Long Covid Research Clinician, Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK	
9.00 am – 9.30 am	Session	New Zealand's Long COVID Landscape – from recognition to biomedical research – an overview	Anna Brooks , PhD, Senior Lecturer and Director at Auckland Cytometry, University of Auckland, New Zealand	
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Caregiver Perspective	Practical insight: Severe LC Kids, parent full time care giver, diagnostic odyssey	Erin Godwin , Mother and Carer of a very severely ill child suffering from Long COVID	
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Session	Is there a Stigma of Long COVID?	Prof. Dr. Georg Schomerus , Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Leipzig, Germany	
10.30 am – 10.40 am	Community Keynotes	Unmet needs and stigmatization of people suffering from long COVID after vaccination	Fiona Campbell , BSc, former nurse, Long COVID after vaccination, member of UK CV family/ Irish Covid Vaccine Clan, Ireland and UK	
10.40 am – 10.50 am	Community Keynotes	Holism done right: addressing psychic trauma in LC and ME/CFS	Tom Molmans , MD, Psychiatrist, LC and ME/CFS patient, research consultant for the Dutch Long Covid Foundation, The Netherlands	
10.50 am – 11.00 am	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from MEAction UK and MEAction Scotland</i>		
Block 8				1 CME-Point
11.00 am – 11.10 am	Community Keynotes	A Longitudinal Perspective on ME/CFS	Jeff Lubell , parent and caregiver of a young adult with ME/CFS and other chronic conditions, USA	
11.10 am – 11.40 am	Caregiver Perspective	The most severely affected – A caregiver's perspective	Dr. Sabine Hermisson , Mother and Carer of a very severely ill ME Patient and advocate, Vienna, Austria	
11.40 am – 12.10 pm	Session	Precision Medicine for Long COVID and ME/CFS: A New Understanding of the Disease Biology	Sayoni Das , PhD, SVP of Bioinformatics at PrecisionLife, Oxford, UK	
12.10 pm – 12.50 pm	Lunch ☺	<i>Video contributions from Long Covid Advocacy UK, Millions Missing México, Colectivo Covid Persistente Comunidad Valenciana and Norsk Covidforening</i>		
Block 9				1 CME-Point
12.50 pm – 1.00 pm	Community Keynotes	Is there a link between auto-immunity and Long COVID?	Dr. Jeroen den Dunnen , immunologist and Principal Investigator at Amsterdam University Medical Center, location AMC, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands	
1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	Session	Deformability Cytometry, from bench to bedside	Martin Kräter , PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light, Erlangen, Germany	
1.30 pm – 2.00 pm	Session	Vascular regulation disorder in Post COVID disease and MECFS	Dr. med Michael Kacik , Specialist in Internal Medicine and Angiology and Specialist in General Medicine, Münster, Germany	
2.00 pm – 2.30 pm	Session	PAIS-demystifying diagnosis, pathobiology and treatment	Dr. David Putrino , Director of Rehabilitation Innovation at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City, USA	
2.30 pm – 2.45 pm	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from COVID-19 Longhailer Advocacy Project - Inc</i>		

Block 10

2 CME-Points

2.45 pm – 3.15 pm	Short Panel	Insights from Clinical Practice. A discussion.	Dr. Michael Stingl , Specialist in Neurology, Vienna, Austria Dr. med Michael Kacik , Specialist in Internal Medicine and Angiology and Specialist in General Medicine, Münster, Germany
3.15 pm – 3.45 pm	Session	Overlapping and differentiating biological features of ME/CFS and Long COVID	Prof. Dr. Bhupesh K. Prusty , PhD, Professor of Science, Riga Stradins University, Riga, Latvia.
3.45 pm – 4.15 pm	Patient Perspective	Living With Long COVID: A patient perspective	Pam Bishop , PhD, Long COVID Patient, Tennessee, USA
4.15 pm – 4.25 pm	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from LC/DC</i>	

Block 11

1 CME-Point

4.25 pm – 4.45 pm	Session	Clinical and Research Efforts from the Stanford Long COVID Collaborative	Linda N. Geng , MD, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor at Stanford University and Co-Director Post-Acute COVID-19 Syndrome Center, California, USA
4.45 pm – 5.00 pm	Patient Advocacy	"Wake up call"	Paul Hennessy , Long Covid Advocate, California, USA
5.00 pm – 5.30 pm	Session	How Long Covid researchers are repeating the ME/CFS Biopsychosocial Playbook	David Tuller , Dr. Ph., Senior Fellow in Public Health and Journalism, Center for Global Public Health, UC Berkeley, USA
5.30 pm – 5.45 pm	Break ☞	<i>Video contribution from Kara Jane</i>	

Block 12

2 CME-Points

5.45 pm – 6.15 pm	Session	Sars-Cov-2 neuroinvasive potential and associated Neuroinflammation as possible mechanisms of underlying brain fog and cognitive dysfunction in Long Covid patients.	Danielle Beckman , PhD, Neuroscientist, University of California, Davis, USA
6.15 pm – 6.45 pm	Session	"Long COVID19 and the brain": a neuroimmunopsychiatry account	Daniel Martins , MD PhD, Senior Research Fellow Departement of Neuroimaging, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College, London, UK
6.45 pm – 7.15 pm	Session	The price paid when your immune system misfires	Dr. Anne Maitland , Director, Allergy & Immunology Services, Metrodora Institute, Asst. Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai, New York, USA
7.15 pm – 7.30 pm	Session	UniteToFight2024 says thank you.	Core Team UniteToFight

*In the case of last-minute program changes, please also check the website: unitetofight2024.world/program

Many thanks for participating in the conference and to all those who contributed making the conference possible.

A big thank you goes to all those affected, relatives, caregivers, medical professionals and organizations who sent in so many insightful and moving videos. Even if we are unfortunately unable to show all the contributions, the videos you submitted clearly show how urgently medical care and better management of the diseases ME/CFS and Long COVID are needed.

Kim, Marco, Diana, Chris and Claus



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MANY THANKS

to the worldwide LC/ME community and to everyone who supported us to make this conference happen

Video contributions from organisations and patients

Anil van der Zee

From professional ballet to very severe ME – a portrait.

The Netherlands — <https://anilvanderzee.com>

#ApresJ20 - Association Covid Long France

Our objective is to inform about Long Covid and work with researchers and doctors, in order to provide support for patients.

France — <http://www.apresj20.fr>

Association of People with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (PEM) – ONG PEM

Patients with myalgic encephalomyelitis describing their experiences, as well as a doctor and a researcher both dedicated to myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Spain — <https://www.ongpem.org>

Colectivo Covid Persistente Comunidad Valenciana

Thank you to the scientists and doctors treating Long Covid. We call for public investment and wish to send a message of hope for patients.

Spain — <https://www.facebook.com/covidpersistenteCVlc>

COVID-19 Longhailer Advocacy Project, Inc

We asked the Long COVID community what messages they would want to send to the medical community.

United States — <https://www.longhailer-advocacy.org/>

Kara Jane Kara Jane explains why she wrote her song “Stole” from her forthcoming album, “In Limbo”. Kara died after years of suffering from ME in 2023 aged 32.

United Kingdom — <https://karajanesings.com>

LC/DC People with Long Covid, doctors, scientists gathered in Washington, D.C. on International Long Covid Awareness Day urging for more investments into treatment, prevention, and education.

United States — www.LCDCMarch15.com

Long Covid Advocacy Legislate. Investigate. Ventilate. Educate.

United Kingdom — <https://linktr.ee/longcovidadvocacy>

Long Covid Support We are a UK charity providing peer support, advocacy, research involvement, awareness and education. Keeping people with Long Covid at the centre of everything we do.

United Kingdom — <https://www.longcovid.org>

Millions Missing México Maria’s story and Millions Missing México

México — <https://www.instagram.com/millionsmissingmexico>

#MEAction UK & #MEAction Scotland Legislate. We campaign for recognition, education, and research so one day all people with ME will have access to rapid diagnosis, and compassionate and effective care.

United Kingdom — <http://meaction.org.uk>

Norsk Covidforening Jeg Mangler (“I’m missing”)

Norway — <https://covidforeningen.no>

Not Recovered UK UK branch of Not Recovered, leading a nationwide billboard campaign calling for urgent biomedical research for Long Covid and ME/CFS.

United Kingdom — <https://www.notrecovereduk.org>

Stichting Long COVID (Long COVID Foundation Netherlands)

Stichting Long COVID (Long COVID Foundation Netherlands) is stimulating and funding biomedical research into causes and treatments of Long COVID.

The Netherlands — www.stichtinglongcovid.nl

Moderators

Gary Anderson, Stefan Kollmeier, Alex Sprackland, Martin Hippe, Verena Hackl, Christoph Bammer, Sabine Hermisson, Lauren Goshen

Donations

Thousand thanks to everybody who donated!