

December 2, 2013

A global Consensus statement on the evaluation of new & existing therapies for paediatric multiple sclerosis to be recognised across Europe

The latest MS Consensus statement, on the evaluation of new and existing therapies for paediatric MS, developed by the Steering Committee of the International Paediatric MS Study Group (IPMSSG) calls for the inclusion of children and adolescents with MS in new and emerging therapies for MS.

This Statement has been developed by the Steering Committee of the IPMSSG whom we would like to congratulate for this major achievement: Dr Tanuja Chitnis, Dr Silvia Tenenbaum, Dr Brenda Banwell, Dr Lauren Krupp, Dr Daniela Pohl, Dr Kevin Rostasy, Dr Eluen Ann Yeh, Dr Olga Bykova, Dr Evangeline Wassmer, Dr Marc Tardieu, Dr Andrew Kornberg and Dr Angelo Ghezzi.

Following the recent implementation of guidelines developed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), this consensus statement aims at ensuring appropriate access to new MS treatments for children and adolescents.

Fifty IPMSSG members from 21 countries approved the final paper which will be integrated into EMSP's *European Code of Good Practice in MS ("MS Code")* for publication on the Health EU Portal of the European Commission and disseminated widely by the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP).

Launched in 2005, the "MS Code" was developed by the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform in close collaboration with the bodies of the European Union (EU) and the EU Member States, and endorsed three years later by German Health Minister Ulla Schmidt, under the German EU Presidency.

The "MS Code" was a concrete outcome of work underlining the significant inequalities in access to treatment and the significant disparities in the quality of life of people with MS across Europe, brought before the European Parliament by Finnish MEP Uma Aaltonen, the Parliament's Rapporteur, and herself a person with MS, in 2003, and led to the adoption of the Resolution on the rights of people with MS in the EU.

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The “MS Code” covers four main areas:

1. Equal rights in access to treatment, therapies and services in the management of MS,
2. Inclusion of people with MS into the labour market,
3. Their participation and their empowerment and
4. A call for a shared MS research agenda.

To date, European Consensus Statements exist on:

1. Disease modifying therapies
2. Symptomatic treatments
3. Rehabilitation
4. Palliative Care
5. MS Nursing
6. Principles of Quality of Life (developed by MSIF)

We – as the European MS Platform - believe that the integration of this new Consensus statement into the (soon revised) “MS Code” will contribute to a better evaluation of current as well as new MS disease-modifying therapies in adult MS for therapeutic studies, ultimately leading to its potential use in paediatric MS. We therefore thank IPMSSG for their permission to integrate the global Consensus statement on the evaluation of new & existing therapies for paediatric multiple sclerosis into EMSP’s European Code of MS and its series of European Consensus statements.

All people with multiple sclerosis, irrespective of age, have the right to equal access to treatment and the fruits of MS research. This will guarantee the quality of life and a better future for all people with multiple sclerosis across Europe.

Signature



John C. Golding

EMSP President