

CALL FOR THEMED WORKSHOP APPLICATIONS

ENMC THEMED WORKSHOPS

Introduction

In addition to the regular ENMC workshop applications, where topics of the workshops originate from the workshop organisers, ENMC launches a **call for themed workshops applications**. This programme is set up to prepare the stepping stones for the future by listening to the needs of the neuromuscular patient and research community.

With a “**Themed Call**”, ENMC provides workshop funding opportunities for 1 or 2 themed workshops per year, focusing on pre-identified themes which:

- are preferably of interest for several neuromuscular conditions and if relevant even require sharing experience outside the neuromuscular field (transversal workshops).
- require a multidisciplinary approach, i.e. a heterogenous group of participants, such as clinicians, health care professionals, basic scientists, patient and pharma representatives, technical experts and external specialists etc. need to take part in the discussions.
- are topics and/or diseases that are not often discussed in a workshop, that are unique in the sense that the theme is of added value for the neuromuscular community and that there is no duplication of efforts.
- are groundbreaking and strategic and require therefore development of a sustainable platform or consortium in the future.

The themes are based on the identified needs from the neuromuscular patient and research community. They are prioritized and selected each year by the ENMC Research and Executive Committee, respectively. The rationale for the chosen Theme in a given year and the research questions that may be addressed in the Themed workshop application will be announced via the regular ENMC channels (Twitter, LinkedIn, ENMC newsletter etc.). Themed workshop applications can be submitted and will be assessed by the ENMC only once a year (see timeline below). In general, only one themed-workshop application will be selected. In case two or more applications are complimentary to one another, ENMC may decide to merge them into one large ENMC themed workshop or into a sequential set of meetings.

Application and review process

Applicants are free to identify the theme-related gaps in knowledge and the set of workshop objectives and deliverables, which will determine the workshop programme and list of attendees. A well thought through workshop proposal and concise description in the application are important preparatory tools to foster constructive and effective workshop discussions and stimulate follow-up work.

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It is highly encouraged that people from different stakeholder groups (patient representatives together with experienced researchers and clinicians from the neuromuscular field) unite as an organising committee to steer the workshop on the special theme and create a larger consortium for the future. Due to the fact that Themed workshops are multi-disciplinary and may have a broad impact, applicants may consider to disseminate their results through multiple channels and papers, apart from the mandatory report in Neuromuscular Disorders and the ENMC lay summary.

ENMC offers the opportunity of online preparatory meetings in addition to the face-to-face/hybrid meeting. The virtual meetings can be very helpful in the preparation of the official workshop weekend. Although the face-to-face meeting of a themed workshop is limited to a maximum of 30 participants, the virtual meetings have the advantage of also potentially extending to additional experts who can bring in their research and voice on the chosen theme beforehand. All participants will need to sign a confidentiality agreement beforehand. Organisers are encouraged to state in the application if and how they want to make use of the online preparatory meetings.

Themed workshop applications and traditional regular call applications will be assessed and rated separately by the Research Committee.

Table 1: Differences between regular and themed call for applications

	Regular Call	Themed call
Workshop topic	Comes spontaneously from the NMD field	Is identified through input from the NMD field and prioritised by the ENMC at the General Assembly Meeting every two years
	Can be both condition-specific and NMD broad	Mainly NMD transversal topics
Workshop applications can be submitted	Twice per year, before 1 March or 1 September	Once per year, with a deadline of 1 March
Workshop organisers	Max. 4: mostly academic and clinical representatives, but people from other disciplines are welcome to engage as workshop organisers as well.	Max. 4: must be a multi-disciplinary group of for example basic scientists, translational researchers, clinicians, patient representatives, health care -, health economic - or regulatory professionals, pharma representatives etc.
Feasibility criteria	According to ENMC Workshop Application Guidelines	According to ENMC Workshop Application Guidelines and Themed Call criteria
Quality assessment	By the RC	By the RC
Workshop selection	By the EC	By the EC
Annual Budget	9 workshops	1 workshop

Abbreviations: EC (Executive Committee), ENMC (European Neuromuscular Centre), GAM (General Assembly Meeting), NMD (Neuromuscular disorders), RC (Research Committee)

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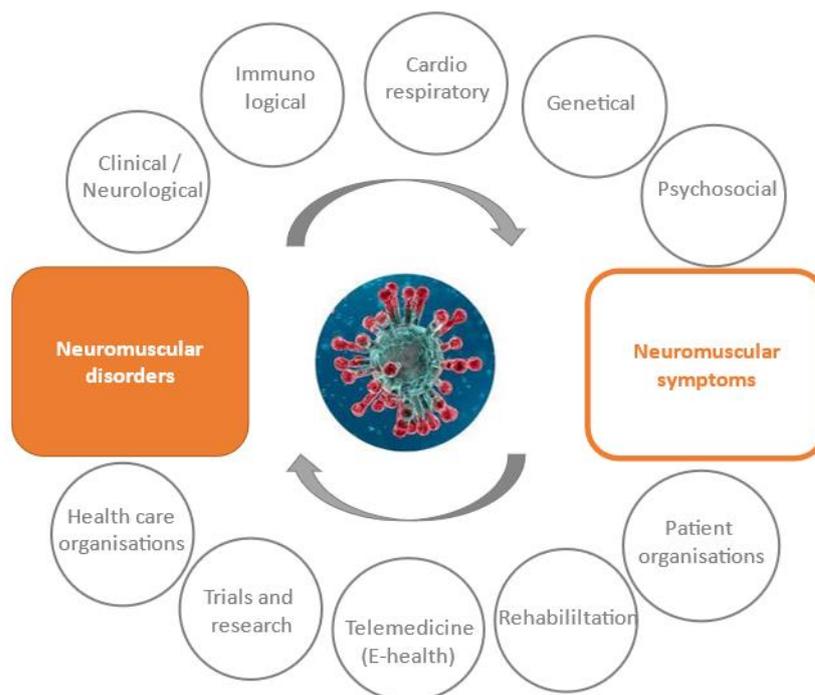
Two-yearly timeline of Themed Workshop Calls (see also Table 1 below)

This year (2021), a pilot will start to test the concept of Themed Workshops. The process and the outcomes of the call will be evaluated end of this year. The topic for this pilot has already been chosen by the ENMC Research and Executive Committee and is entitled:

Post-Covid-19:

Issues and opportunities for the neuromuscular field

Learning experiences from the Covid-19 pandemic regarding neurological, psychological, immunological, social, economic, technical etc. aspects for neuromuscular patients in self-isolation and Corona-virus infected people who developed neuromuscular symptoms



A call for application on this theme is provided on the ENMC website (www.enmc.org).

For upcoming years (2022 and beyond), themes for the calls will be chosen every two years according to the following timeline: (see also Table 2):

1. *Before 15 May*: ENMC Executive Committee (EC), Research Committee (RC) and Associated Members (AM) may submit proposals for specific themes (picked up from the NMD field) to the ENMC office, including the title, background and the rationale for this theme (1 A4).

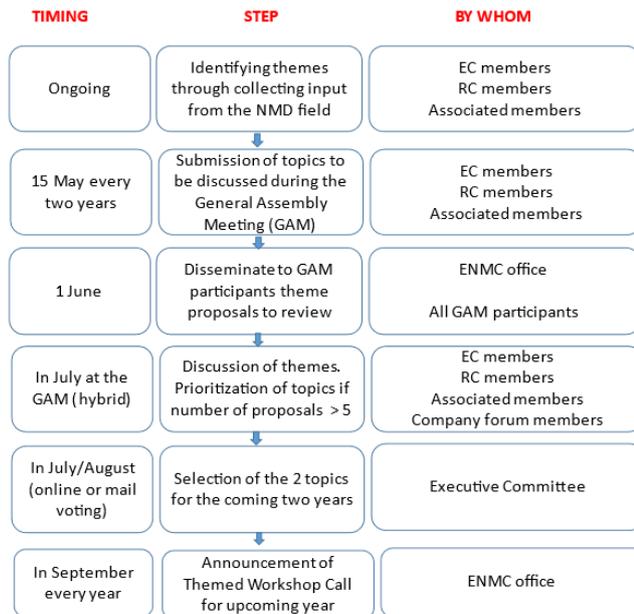
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2. *1 June*: ENMC office sends out the theme proposals to participants of the two-yearly ENMC General Assembly Meeting (GAM) for review and preparation.
3. *July (around ICNMD)*: Members of the EC, RC, AM and Company Forum (CF) discuss all theme proposals during the GAM. A priority list will be set for the theme proposals if more than five (5) were submitted.
4. *July/August*: EC decides upon two themes, to be organised in the following two consecutive years.
5. *1 September*: ENMC office opens the call for themed workshop applications, including a short background and rationale for the selected workshop theme.
6. *Before 1 March*: Themed workshop applications should be submitted to enmc@enmc.org.
7. *March*: assessment of the received themed workshop applications by the RC, independently of the open call applications.
8. *April*: ENMC EC and RC discuss and approve the themed application(s), respectively, to be organized as an ENMC workshop.
9. *May* : ENMC office will communicate the decision and will work together with the applicants in organising the workshop.
10. *Within two years*: Execution of the themed call workshop(s), either in a virtual, hybrid and/or a face-to-face setting.

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Table 2: Themed Call Process

1. Theme identification for the themed call



2. Evaluation of Themed Workshop Applications



3. Execution of themed workshop