

**Announcement: Themed workshop applications**

In addition to the regular, open workshop applications where topics of the workshops originate from the workshop organisers, the ENMC is proud to announce the new concept of “Themed Workshops”. For this type of workshops, the ENMC will identify special themes which are prioritised by the needs of the neuromuscular patient and research community (see addendum to Workshop grant applications procedure - themed call) and which are transversal, multidisciplinary, unique and sustainable.

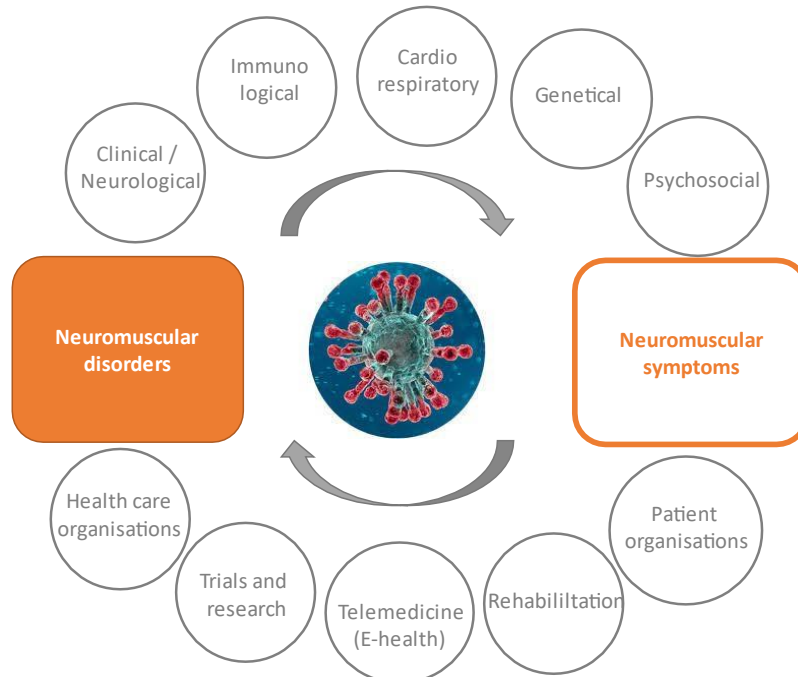
**Themed workshop applications in 2021**

The proposal for the theme of 2021, taking into account the above criteria, the high importance and urgency of the topic for the neuromuscular patients, is:

**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*



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The rationale for selecting this workshop theme this year is to learn from the Covid-19 pandemic and the way NMD patients were assessed and care managed during the self-isolation period. For example to learn from novel monitoring techniques, which were implemented during the current pandemic out of necessity, and adopt them for the regular care management of NMD patients in the future. But also to understand how neuromuscular signs and symptoms have developed in non-NMD patients who were infected by the Corona virus.

This **Post-Covid-19** theme adheres to the requirements for the Themed Workshops since it:

- requires the input of a multidisciplinary group of organisers and participants
- is important for many neuromuscular conditions and other conditions
- is unique in the sense that there is no duplication of efforts and it is sustainable
- leads to the development of a consortium to build upon the workshop outcomes for the future.

### **Call for Applications!**

Organisers, who would like to pick up this theme and apply for an ENMC workshop, are free to further define the rationale, background, objectives and resulting deliverables of the workshop, according to the regular Grant Application Guidelines ([Step 2: Application guidelines – ENMC](#)). Some workshop questions were suggested by the ENMC Research and Executive Committee, which are not mandatory to include in the applications, but perhaps are a source for inspiration:

- 1) Can we use the workshop platform to give an overview of the development of the WMS guidelines on Covid-19 management and vaccination of patients affected by a neuromuscular condition (NMD)?
- 2) What can the NMD field bring to non-NMD patients affected by Covid-19, who have developed neuromuscular signs and symptoms? Definition of possible projects involving these Covid-19 patients and funding opportunities.
- 3) What can we learn from telemedicine (e-health) alternative ways of monitoring NMD patients during self-isolation and/or in clinical trials?
- 4) Can we formulate guidelines on psychological and physical exercise support for NMD patients who are or have been on strict self-isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic?
- 5) Can this workshop be a starting point for the establishment of a “Post-Covid-19 consortium”, which will continue work on this topic and e.g. start a registry of patients affected by NMD in future Corona endemics?

Application selection criteria for Themed workshops:

- Same guidelines as for the regular open call.
- Due to the transversal and multidisciplinary character of the themed workshops, the number of participants may reach a maximum of 30 persons.
- Due to the multidisciplinary character and the broad impact of themed workshops, applicants are encouraged to disseminate their results through multiple channels and papers.

**Timeline**

*June 2021:* call opening

*30 September 2021:* deadline for submission of workshop applications. In case you have questions, please contact the office at least two weeks before the deadline.

*October 2021:* review and rating of the received themed workshop applications by the ENMC Research Committee, separately from the review of the open call applications.

*November 2021:* selection of one themed workshop application by the ENMC Executive Committee. If two applications are complementary and may well integrate with each other, ENMC may accept to organise both workshops or merge them into one workshop.

*December 2021:* Communication of the decision by the ENMC office

*Following year:* Execution of the themed call workshop(s) in a face to face setting in 2022