

Role of the Study Sponsor: This study was sponsored by EMD Serono Research and Development Institute, Inc., a business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. The study sponsor was involved in the study design, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, and was involved in the decision to submit the abstract for publication.

Involvement of individuals not listed as authors: Bioscript Science provided medical writing support, funded by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

Conflict of interest disclosures

Xavier Montalban

Has received speaking honoraria and travel expenses for participation in scientific meetings, has been a steering committee member of clinical trials or participated in advisory boards of clinical trials in the past years with Actelion, Alexion, Bayer, Biogen, Celgene, EMD Serono, Genzyme, Immunic, Medday, Merck, Mylan, Nervgen, Novartis, Roche, Sanofi-Genzyme, Teva Pharmaceutical, TG Therapeutics, Excemed, MSIF and NMSS.

Douglas L. Arnold

Reports consultant fees and/or grants from Acorda, Adelphi, Alkermes, Biogen, Celgene, Frequency Therapeutics, Genentech, Genzyme, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Immune Tolerance Network, Immunotec, MedDay Pharmaceuticals, Merck Serono, Novartis, Pfizer, Receptos, Sanofi-Aventis, and an equity interest in NeuroRx Research.

Martin S. Weber

Has received travel funding and/or speaker honoraria from Biogen-Idec, Merck Serono, Novartis, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, TEVA, Bayer, and Genzyme.

Ivan Staikov

Has received travel funding, registration fees and/or speaker honoraria from Sanofi-Genzyme, Ewopharma-Biogen, Shire, Gedeon-Richter, TEVA, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Bayer, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Mylan, Polpharma, Penumbra, Adapt, and Merck Serono.

Karolina Piasecka-Stryczynska

Has received travel funding and/or speaker honoraria from Merck Serono, Sanofi-Aventis, Biogen Idec, TEVA, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, and has served on scientific advisory boards for Sanofi-Aventis and Biogen Idec.

Jerry S. Wolinsky

Has received personal compensation for consulting, serving on a scientific advisory board, speaking, or other activities with Alkermes, Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics, EMD Serono (a business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany), GW Pharma, MedDay Pharmaceuticals, NervGen Pharma Corp., Novartis, Roche/Genentech and Sanofi Genzyme. Royalties have been received for out-licensed monoclonal antibodies through UHealth from Millipore Corporation.

Emily C. Martin, Matthew Mandel, and Fernando Dangond

Employed by EMD Serono, Global Clinical Development Center, Billerica, MA, USA (a business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany).

Victor Ona

Was employed by EMD Serono, Global Clinical Development Center, Billerica, MA, USA (a business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) at the time of study. This author is no longer an employee of EMD Serono, Global Clinical Development Center, Billerica, MA, USA (a business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany).