

Prof Amit Bar-Or - Biosketch

Dr. Bar-Or is the inaugural Melissa and Paul Anderson President's Distinguished Professor of Neurology at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania where he Directs the Centre for Neuroinflammation and Experimental Therapeutics and serves as Chief of the Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders. He is former Professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, McGill University, where he also served as the Institute's Associate Director prior to arriving at Penn. Dr. Bar-Or's clinical focus is Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and related disorders in both adults and children for which he is cross-appointed at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and co-directs the age-span program in MS and related disorders with long-standing collaborator and friend Dr. Brenda Banwell ensuring seamless pediatric through adulthood transition of care, education and research. Dr. Bar-Or runs a cellular and molecular Neuroimmunology lab studying principles of immune regulation and immune-neural interaction in the context of injury and repair of the human central nervous system (CNS). Ongoing themes involve elucidation of effector and regulatory mechanisms by which distinct human immune cell subsets (principally T cells, B cells, myeloid cells) interact with one another and with CNS (glial, neuronal) cells, contributing to both 'Neuroimmune Health' and to a range of CNS inflammatory diseases across the age-span.

Of particular interest are human immune-monitoring studies, studies of immune reconstitution, design and implementation of mechanism-of-action and biological proof-of-principle studies of emerging therapies, and development of clinically meaningful biomarkers as part of advancing precision medicine in autoimmune and CNS-inflammatory diseases. These are amongst the main themes of The new Penn Center for NeuroInflammation and Experimental Therapeutics which he directs.

Dr. Bar-Or is passionate about education and mentoring, having trained over 80 students at all levels, with emphasis on clinician-scientist trainees, all of whom have continued active and successful careers at the clinical-research interface. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed publications, led multiple national and international collaborative research initiatives and is considered a highly sought after speaker. He is past President of the Canadian Network of MS Clinics (CNMSC) and past member of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS). He currently serves on the FOCIS Education Committee, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Americas Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) and on the Steering Committee of the NIH Immune Tolerance Network (ITN). Dr. Bar-Or is also a long-standing member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the International Society of Neuroimmunology (ISNI) and currently serves as ISNI President.