



Royal College of Physicians

Rev Professor Alasdair Coles Biography

Alasdair Coles is a neurologist in Cambridge. He was closely involved in the development of alemtuzumab (“Lemtrada”) as a treatment of multiple sclerosis. Since then, he has set up trials of a novel remyelinating drug in multiple sclerosis and of immunotherapy in autoimmune psychosis. He is Chair of the MS Advisory Group of the Association of British Neurologists and chaired the group that drew up the latest NHS England MS Treatment Algorithm. He is also an Anglican priest and interested in how neurological disease affects spirituality.

Presentation Summary

In the last two decades, multiple sclerosis has transformed from a disease considered untreatable to one with an annual disease-modifying drug spend of \$20 billion. All these treatments are of the early relapsing-remitting phase of the disease which – at best- slow entry to the dreaded progressive phase of the disease. Once multiple sclerosis progresses, there are currently no really effective treatments. But exciting laboratory work has suggested some simple cheap drugs could be repurposed to slow or halt progression.