

## **TARGETED THERAPY IN MS: SHOULD WE AIM AT B OR T LYMPHOCYTES? B CELLS**

**Amit Bar-Or**

*Canada*

Though MS has been traditionally viewed as a T cell mediated disease, selective B cell depletion has been demonstrated to substantially decrease new CNS lesions and clinical relapses, underscoring an important contribution of B cells to MS disease activity. The treatment effect does not appear to be explained exclusively on the basis of eliminating CNS auto-reactive antibodies, which highlights the increasingly appreciated antibody-independent mechanism(s) of B cell contribution, to both normal immune responses, as well as to autoimmune diseases including MS. We will consider the substantial progress that has been made in understanding how B cells contribute to MS and, in particular, how functionally distinct B cell subsets interact with other immune responses, contributing to MS disease processes at different disease stages and in particular anatomical compartments.