

IGSN - SYMPOSIUM

Monday, June 29th 2026 • 15.00 (3 pm)

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Small-Fiber Neuropathy: Mechanisms, Diagnostics, and Therapeutic Frontiers

PRAVEEN ANAND

Clinical Neurology, Imperial College London, UK

Advancing Disease Modification Therapies for Painful Small Fibre Neuropathies: Focus on High Concentration Capsaicin Patch

While symptom relief is the goal of most current treatments for neuropathic pain, and their mechanisms related to pain pathophysiology, this talk will introduce and discuss the novel concept of disease-modification for neuropathic pain.

As an introduction, the disease-modifying potential of neurotrophic factors (e.g. rhNGF), and immune therapies (e.g. IVIg), will first be discussed in general. The main focus will be on recently published clinical studies using the Capsaicin 8% patch licensed treatment, which showed regeneration and restoration of small sensory nerve fibres in serial skin biopsies; importantly, the neuropathic pain relief correlated with structural and functional recovery of small sensory nerve fibres.

These observations and the underlying mechanisms will be described in patients with painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN), chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN), and Non-freezing cold-injury (NFCI, “Trench Foot”). Further, there is increasing evidence from large clinical trials for progressively improved efficacy when the capsaicin 8% patch application is repeated 2- to 3-monthly, in patients with painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy; moreover, some patients who did not show a response to initial treatment reported good pain relief after two or more repeated applications.

Hence, clinical and tissue evidence supports the concept of Capsaicin 8% patch as an example of a disease-modifying treatment for painful small fibre neuropathies.

Host:

BAFFOUR KYEI SARPONG

Department of Neurology, St Josef’s Hospital, Medical Faculty, Ruhr-University Bochum

