

## Report SIG Patient Autonomy & Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality joint meeting 2023

SIG group	Patient Autonomy & Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality
Date of in-between meeting	04/05/2023
Venue (incl. city, country)	RIMS 2023 - Genoa, IT
Topic	Patient Autonomy: a key factor in the context of Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality problems

### Report:

Around 40 MS health professionals and researchers (e.g. neurologists, psychologists, nurses, physiotherapists) participated in the meeting jointly organized by SIG Patient Autonomy and SIG Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality. The meeting was held at the Italian MS Society, Genoa (Italy) on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

We aimed to discuss patient empowerment in the Bowel, Bladder, and Sexuality field and to stimulate and exchange on awareness and knowledge among healthcare professionals involved in MS care.

The topic was Patient Autonomy: a key factor in the context of Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality problems.

After a short introduction by Sara Rinaldi (Chair of SIG Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality) during Session 1, Dr. Panicker (UK) made a general overview of bowel and bladder problems in MS, in comparison to the other neurological disorders. Then, there was a group work session in which participants discussed on the barriers for treatment of bladder and bowel disorders, followed by a consensus discussion to agree on key barriers considering also differences across countries.

In Session 2, Dr. Barken (Denmark) presented a series of studies on patient empowerment. Specifically, he presented the ongoing 'Aware MS International Survey' on bowel and bladder problems in people with MS. Second, he showed us the development of a patient self assessment tool for MS bladder. Then, after a short group work session, a general discussion was held on how to improve patient autonomy in relation to bladder, bowel and sexuality issues in the future.

The meeting was fruitful and discussion-rich and participants appreciated very much the possibility to attend such meeting jointly organized by the two SIGs.

We would like to thank Dr. Kim Bundvig Barken for the important training and discussion; and the sponsor Coloplast for making the meeting possible, full of high educational moments.

### Future plans:

To further continue the discussion on these topics within the two SIGs, we will propose a RIMS Webinar to be held in December 2023.

### Next in-between meeting:

The next in-between meeting of the SIG Patient Autonomy will take place in Autumn 2023.

Next in-between meeting of the SIG Bowel, Bladder and Sexuality: to be defined.

**Participant list:**

Francesca Bianco  
Stefano Biondi  
Louise Danholm  
Marco Della Cava  
David Duncan  
Peter Feys  
Marià Gargallo Noval  
Andrea Giordano  
Teresa Grine  
Christoph Heesen  
Giovanna Konrad  
Barbara Lewicka  
Josephine Lyngh Steenberg  
Marie Lynning  
Claudia Mateus  
Edyta Matusik  
Roberta Motta  
Annika Dencker Nielsen  
Sofie Olsgaard Bergien  
Corinne Oosterlinck  
Jalesh Panicker  
Julia Peper  
Monica Pugliese  
Lorenz Rasev  
Sara Rinaldi  
Federica Salmeri  
Dafne Maria Sanjuan Sole  
Martina Scalia  
Caterina Sgarito  
Lasse Skovgaard  
Jakob Stein Pedersen  
Iza Fruzsina Szoka  
Matteo Valentino  
Andrea Vitiello  
Yaron Watts  
Anna Zanni

