

e-MS Experts' Summit Season 2020

Abstracts

COVID-19 and people with MS

Christoph Thalheim



The European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) represents more than 770,000 people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) in Europe. EMSP works on a three-pillar approach to ensure that people with MS have a real voice in determining their own objectives and priorities:

- campaigning through advocacy and awareness-raising;
- collecting and sharing knowledge and expertise;
- encouraging research and data collection.

En route to its ultimate vision of a world without multiple sclerosis, EMSP brings together MS activists from across Europe, relying on a growing network of 43 member organisations from 37 European countries.

EMSP is the only MS specific organisation that can influence health and other EU policies. They have a history of collaboration with the European Commission and European Parliament. They are also founding members of the European Patients' Forum (EPF) and they have access to the European Medicines Agency (EMA). For more visit annualreport.emsp.org.

Like many other patient organisations, EMSP has also been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In his presentation, Christoph Thalheim will introduce EMSP, its main projects and how the organisation responded to the coronavirus by aligning its activities and better supporting their member organisations. The latter was also backed by an internal membership survey which allowed the European MS Platform to map the needs of European MS Associations during the COVID-19 crisis. Mr. Thalheim will give an insight into the outcomes of that survey, which allowed the European MS community to shed light on the principal challenges faced by people affected by MS during this difficult situation.