

"Untangling the Overlap in Multiple Sclerosis and Depression: An Adjusted Depression Score for Patient-Centered Care"

Abstract: While multiple sclerosis (MS) patients commonly experience depressive symptoms, clinicians cannot reliably distinguish the roles of MS-associated fatigue and depression in patient-reported fatigue. In this seminar, Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)-based approaches will be discussed for developing and evaluating an adjusted depression score for MS patients accounting for overlap of depression and MS-associated fatigue symptoms using the Knowledge Program (KP) at the Cleveland Clinic's Neurological Institute data base. The KP links patient-reported depression (via the PHQ-9) responses to the EPIC EHR and provides a powerful opportunity to study and improve patient care and clinical research. Disentangling the overlap of fatigue in depression and MS-related fatigue will help clinicians prevent over or under prescribing anti-depressants and fatigue and MS medication, providing better tailored care.