



Q & A with American Brain Foundation Researcher: **Ricardo Roda, MD, PhD** NYU School of Medicine

2014 Clinician-Scientist Development Award in Myasthenia Gravis and Related Disorders of the Neuromuscular Junction

Cosponsored by the American Academy of Neurology, the American Brain Foundation and the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America



Q: Please describe your research.

A. My research involves identifying new antibodies (molecules that bind and tag other molecules) in myasthenia gravis and how they cause disease. Antibodies normally function as part of the human defense system but in some disorders, the body's own molecules are recognized as foreign and destroyed. In myasthenia gravis, several molecules in the same signal pathway are recognized as foreign and attacked, resulting in the disease.

Q: How could this research benefit patients or the public?

A. Identifying new antibodies in myasthenia gravis will be important in developing diagnostic tools. It will also be significant in identifying new molecular pathways which may cause disorders of the neuromuscular junction.

Q. What has the impact of securing the fellowship had on determining your career in research?

A. This award has allowed me to spend a significant portion of my time doing research and provides an initial pathway toward an academic career.