Please submit your abstract on this form and save in the format Saif Huda Abstract.doc and send to [dominica.luscombe@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dominica.luscombe@ndcn.ox.ac.uk). We will only have time for a few oral presentations and the posters will also be limited to around 20. We are currently trying to obtain additional space for posters.

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Below is the format we would like for the abstracts, so that we can prepare a simple programme book. Please keep the number of words to less than 150 and the message simple. This is just an example, of course.

MUSK ANTIBODIES IN MYASTHENIA: A CONTINUING STORY

Saif Huda, Angela Vincent, University of Oxford, UK, and Roberta Ricciardi, University of Pisa, Italy.

MuSK antibodies can be measured by radioimmunoprecipitation (RIA) but cell-based assays (CBAs) can be useful in some cases. We first compared RIA and CBAs for MuSK antibodies and increased the specificity and sensitivities of the tests. Using these methods, we re-analysed samples from the University of Pisa to establish the RIA and CBA titres and IgG specificity of the antibodies.

The samples were then used in in vitro functional assays to assess the effects of the antibodies on agrin-induced AChR clustering in C2C12 cells, AChR declustering in Dok7-transduced C2C12 cells, and the relationship with MuSK phosphorylation. Correlations between the effects and the MuSK antibody titres showed that …… 50 more words allowed.

Conflict of interest: AV receives a proportion of royalties for MuSK antibody assays. SH and RR, no conflicts

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