B-cell activity predicts response to glatiramer acetate and interferon in relapsing-remitting MS

# Appendix e-1 NeuroTransData

NeuroTransData (NTD) was founded in 2008 as a Germany-wide network of physicians in the fields of neurology and psychiatry. At present NTD includes 78 neurologists in 153 practices, serving approximately 600,000 outpatients per year. Each practice is certified according to network-specific and ISO 9001 criteria; compliance with these criteria is audited annually by an external certified audit organization. The NTD multiple sclerosis (MS) registry includes approximately 25,000 patients with MS. The database captures information in real time on demographic data, clinical history, and clinical variables, from an average of 3.7 visits and Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) assessments per patient per year via web-based data entry. Patient identification codes are managed independently by the Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometry, and Epidemiology, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany. Certified raters perform standardized clinical assessments of functional system scores and EDSS calculation (http://www.neurostatus.net/). All personnel undergo regular training to ensure the quality of data in the database. Both automatic and manually executed queries are implemented to further ensure data quality.