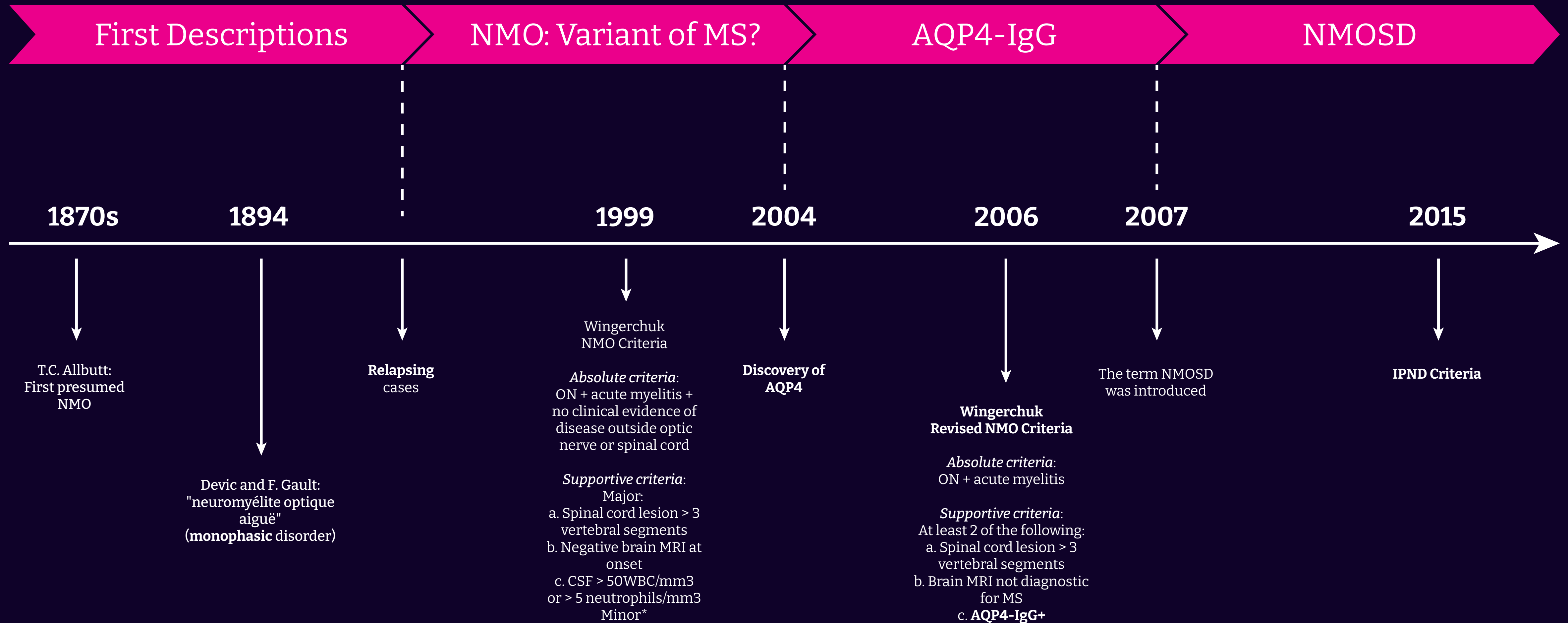


History and evolution of the diagnostic criteria for NMO.



Time line shows the history and evolution of the diagnostic criteria for NMO. The time line is divided into four eras. The beginning era consists of the first descriptions of this demyelinating disease and its first denomination as neuromyéélite optique aiguë (French term for acute NMO). In the second era, NMO was classified as a possible form of multiple sclerosis (MS) due to similarities in clinical manifestations, such as myelitis and optic neuritis (ON). This era ends with the differentiation of NMO from multiple sclerosis due to the discovery of AQP4-IgG. Thus, the third era begins with the discovery of AQP4-IgG. AQP4-IgG-seropositive status (AQP4-IgG+) was included as a supportive criterion in the revised 2006 NMO diagnostic criteria, and new clinical and radiologic findings were observed in these seropositive patients that further broadened the spectrum of NMO. The term NMO spectrum disorder was introduced, and the current era began. *Minor supportive criteria are the following: bilateral optic neuritis; severe optic neuritis with fixed visual acuity worse than 20/200 in at least one eye; and severe, fixed, attack-related weakness in one or more limbs. CSF = cerebrospinal fluid, IPND = International Panel for NMO Diagnosis, MRI = magnetic resonance imaging, WBC = white blood cell.