



**MND**  
**Scotland**  
Making time count

# Research Strategy 2022-2025

# Our vision is a world **without** MND. It's time we found a cure. Together, we will.

Over the past 15 years MND Scotland committed **£5.87 million** to funding research:

- **46%** was invested in developing the pipeline to test treatments (including funding the largest MND clinical trial in the UK),
- **39%** was invested in the identification of new targets for exploring new MND treatments
- **15%** was invested in improving standards of care for people with MND

Research remains a key strand of our **Making Time Count 2022-25 strategy** as MND Scotland believes it's about time we found a cure.

We have committed to adopting a collaborative approach to funding MND research, avoiding duplication and with the aim of discovering effective treatments, improving quality of life, and finding a cure.

## We already:

- Are a key funder of MND-SMART, a pioneering MND clinical trial which allows hundreds of people across the UK to take part in testing potential treatments
- Co-fund the Gordon Aikman Scholarships to understand better ways of supporting people living with MND
- Fund the collection of brain and spinal cord tissue for use in medical advances in the understanding of MND
- Fund early career researchers to ensure the MND research community continues to thrive in the future

Our **2022-2025** research strategy outlines how we will strive to **make time count** for people affected by MND through innovative research.



# Priorities

Identify the priorities of people affected by MND, MND research scientists, and the clinical community to inform our research funding decisions

- Asking people affected by MND (patients and carers) how their challenges could be better understood and addressed by research
- Asking the scientific and clinical community what research challenges need to be addressed to enable a step-change in improvements for people living with MND

# Relationships

Embed partnership working in our ethos to enable transformation in MND research

- Appointing a new MND Scotland Involvement Lead to enable partnership working with people affected by MND in all our processes, including research funding
- Developing close working relationships with colleagues in charities and research institutes to ensure the best MND research is both identified and realised.

- Exploring co-funding opportunities with new partners, as well as continuing established relationships (e.g. Chief Scientist Office at Scottish Government) in order to maximise the impact of our funding
- Working within the United to End MND campaign group to realise the UK Government's £50m pledge for a MND Translational Research Institute and ensure a voice for Scotland



# Investment

Invest in innovative clinical trials, data- and bio- resources to speed up routes to new treatments

- Making sure that people with MND in Scotland have access to meaningful clinical trials
- Enabling the pooling and sharing of precious research resources such as datasets, biorepositories and biobanks

# Capacity

Explore new ways of funding research to better understand MND, build future research capacity, improve translation into clinical practice, and have genuine impact for people with MND

- Responding rapidly and flexibly to new and emerging research themes to make sure we are meeting the needs of MND researchers
- Identifying the psycho-social research questions that could lead to more rapid improvements for people affected by MND
- Attracting researchers from applied areas such as engineering, data science and machine learning into the MND field
- Making sure the best researchers are attracted into the MND field and retained
- Promoting translation of research findings and technology development into clinical practice on an equitable basis across NHS Scotland

# Engagement

Promote engagement, raise awareness, and campaign to make sure the significance of MND research is understood by:

- the public
- government
- funders
- researchers
- people affected by MND



To find out more about the research  
we fund visit [mndscotland.org.uk/research](https://mndscotland.org.uk/research)

You can also get in touch on **0141 332 3903**  
or at [research@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:research@mndscotland.org.uk)



Making time count for people with  
motor neuron disease (MND)

  @MNDScotland  mndscotland

Founders: John and Peigi Macleod  
Royal Patron: HRH Princess Royal

MND Scotland, 6th Floor, Merchant Exchange, 20 Bell Street, Glasgow, G1 1LG. Company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland.  
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