



MND
Scotland
Making time count

Research Strategy 2022-2024

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 2022-23 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 2022-2024 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

You can also get in touch on **0141 332 3903**
or at 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.
Company number SC217735. Scottish Charity number SC002662. VAT number 195 0616 96.