

## **New members required for MND Scotland**

### **Scientific Advisory Panel**

We are looking for six new members to join our Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), to start during 2025 for a three year term (with possibility of renewal for a further 3 years).

Due to the departure of a number of existing SAP members, following the completion of both of their three year terms of office (the maximum permitted), we are seeking applications for membership from four researchers, and one specialist in delivering care for people with MND.

### **About MND Scotland**

Founded in 1981, MND Scotland is the only charity in Scotland that supports people affected by MND as well as funding vital research to understand the disease, identify treatments, and improve quality of life. Since 2007, we have invested, or committed, £8.7 million in research, including the groundbreaking UK-wide clinical trial MND-SMART, which is now the largest MND clinical trial in UK history.

### **Purpose**

The role of the MND Scotland Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) is to provide expertise, information and guidance to the charity on all aspects of MND research, and to ensure that there is a transparent, accountable process for funding MND relevant research of the highest possible quality and with the greatest possible impact.

### **The role and commitment**

MND Scotland SAP members are responsible for assessing applications to our research funding schemes and making funding recommendations to the Board of Trustees. They also advise on research strategy and any other issues related to MND research, as required.

The SAP meets as required, usually for half a day once or twice a year, for funding considerations and may be called upon to provide advice on other items that may arise throughout the year.

For the funding consideration meetings, SAP members are required to read the applications received and the associated external peer reviews. Each member will be required to present one or two applications at the meeting and participate in discussions for all applications.

SAP membership is for an initial three-year term, with the option to renew for a second three-year term. The maximum permitted duration of service is six years.

To find out more about MND Scotland and the research we fund, please visit [www.mndscotland.org.uk](http://www.mndscotland.org.uk)

## Vacancies available

Membership of the MND Scotland SAP spans a range of specialities and, due to a number of terms of office coming to an end, we are looking for six new members to start in 2025. These are:

- Senior researcher whose work focuses on MND, or a related subject\*, and is based at an institution in Scotland (three positions available, one to start in May and two in July 2025),
- Expert in neurodegeneration research, not necessarily focussed on MND\* (one position available, to start in May 2025),
- A specialist in delivering care to people with MND e.g. MND Specialist nurse or allied health professional (one position available, to start in December 2025).
- We currently also have a vacancy for a MND research expert\* from within the UK but outside of Scotland (one position, no set start date)

\* We welcome applications from people who are specialists in emerging technologies that may have applications in MND research (e.g. machine learning, robotics, AI).

We particularly welcome applications from women as three of our current female members are stepping down at the end of their term of office.

## Current Membership

The SAP provides a balance of specialist and non-specialist expertise and currently consists of:

- Trustee Co-Chair who will represent the business of the SAP at the Board
- Science Co-Chair who is an expert in neurodegenerative disease research
- A second Trustee who will bring a lay perspective and will observe SAP meetings to ensure due process. This is a non-voting position in grant review.
- A minimum of two senior MND (or related subject) researchers who are based in different research institutions in Scotland.
- A minimum of two clinicians experienced in the management of MND.
- A minimum of one MND specialist Nurse or Allied Health Professional based in one of the Boards of NHS Scotland
- A minimum of one experienced researcher not connected to MND research.
- Additional senior MND researcher from outside of Scotland.
- A maximum of two Early Career Researchers (ECR) who have some research experience in MND or a related subject.
- A lay person for every 5 applications undergoing review to express the opinions of people affected by MND.

## Member declarations

All members of the SAP are required to sign and adhere to the MND Scotland Conflicts of Interest (CoI) policy. They are also required to agree to and sign a non-disclosure statement acknowledging that neither the applications, nor any part of the review process may be discussed with the applicants, or any person who is not a member of the SAP.

## How to Apply

Please send a 2-page CV and a covering letter, outlining why you would like to join the MND Scotland SAP and what qualities and skills you could contribute, to [research@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:research@mndscotland.org.uk)

We are setting an initial deadline of **Monday 14 April 2025** for applications. We reserve the right to re-advertise later in the year if required.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please contact the MND Scotland research team via [research@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:research@mndscotland.org.uk)