

Your quarterly update from  
MND Scotland

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**Friend,** here is your latest  
news from MND Scotland.

**Sharing your  
experience**



Sharing first-hand experiences to raise awareness of the disease and highlight the impact of MND is integral to what we do. In July, we shared the story of film editor **Chris Buckland** who is living with MND. Over the summer, Chris opened his garden to raise vital funds for MND Scotland following his diagnosis.

**Speaking about his MND diagnosis, Chris said:** *"I was diagnosed in 2022, but I had symptoms as early as 2019. In the garden we're talking about, I started to have several falls and balance issues. It took a long time to get diagnosed, mainly because of COVID. Of course everything sort of shut down, so it took almost three years to find out what it was."*

You can read more about Chris' experience below, and if you would like to share your story please get in touch with [communications@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:communications@mndscotland.org.uk).

[Read Chris' story here](#)

## **LEARN launches in Glasgow**



The first **Lived Experience and Researcher Network (LEARN)** event of 2025 kicked off at Celtic Park on Thursday, 11 September with the second at Pittodrie Stadium in Aberdeen on Tuesday, 23 September. Thanks to everyone that came along to hear more from local researchers about current MND research.

This year's **LEARN** events are being held at local football stadiums, to make the events accessible for as many people affected by MND as possible, and there are a further three in October:

- Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh on 7 October
- Tannadice Stadium, Dundee on 22 October
- Global Energy Stadium, Dingwall on 30 October

The events are free to attend and a great opportunity for people affected by MND and MND researchers to come together to share their experiences and knowledge.

[Read more about LEARN](#)

## Celebrating our supporters



Thank you to all the groups, individuals and organisations who have taken on fundraising challenges over the summer. Your support is invaluable and very much appreciated by everyone affected by MND in Scotland. Highlights include:

- A group of childhood friends taking on the epic **Tough Mudder** challenge, inspired by their friend Callum's mother, who was diagnosed with MND in March this year. [Read more about their story here.](#)
- Ten years after losing her father, Fiona Drummond completed a 10,000-foot skydive to honour his memory. Fiona wanted to raise funds for **MND Scotland** as the charity supported her family following her dad's MND diagnosis. [Fiona shares her experience with us here.](#)
- Ryan Kelly will take on the epic **Loch Ness Marathon** later this month in memory of his godmother, Sharon Aiken. Sharon was diagnosed with MND in 2016 after a year of unexplained symptoms. [Read more about what motivates Ryan here.](#)
- Dr. Marc Jacobs, 60, completed the **Ride the North** cycle challenge at Glamis Castle, Angus in support of his friend, Alan Budge, fondly known as 'Budgie', who is living with MND. [Read Marc's story here.](#)

We've also been overwhelmed by the support at our **Fun Runs** in Glasgow and Fife in September. Thank you to everyone that turned out to walk, run or wheel their way round the courses. And a huge thank you to our sponsors, Caesar and Howie, for their support.

Last, but by no means least, thank you to everyone that donned their kilts for the last two **Kiltwalks** of 2025 in Dundee and Edinburgh. There was a fantastic turnout for **Team MND Scotland** and we are so grateful for your support.

## Support our work



If these stories have inspired you, more information on our 2025 fundraising events is available [on the events page of our website](#).

As we enter the final months of 2025, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved and support MND Scotland before the end of the year, including this year's **Great Scottish Run** which takes place on 5 October. You can [sign up directly to secure your place here](#).

The following weekend, we have **The William Wallace Running Festival**. Taking place in Stirling on Saturday, 11 October we are proud to be the official charity partner for the inaugural event. Read more about the partnership, and how to sign up for the **Wallace Warriors** challenge - a 1 mile, traffic-free, flat route - the Ultra 70km or Ultra 50km, both with team relay options, or the Braveheart 10km [on our website](#).

If running is not for you, a great way to support us is by nominating **MND Scotland** as charity partner of the year. Whether through your employer, local golf club or Rotary Club, it's a great way to raise awareness and vital funds. Please get in touch with [lynne.wiseman@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:lynne.wiseman@mndscotland.org.uk) if you know any organisations that might be looking for a charity partner.

## Volunteer with us

We have opportunities for volunteers to get involved in fundraising for MND Scotland, including a bucket collection in partnership with **Brechin Rotary** at Ibrox stadium on Saturday, 18 October ahead of Rangers v Dundee United.

Alongside fundraising volunteers, we have opportunities to join Steering Groups and share personal experiences of MND. We also have opportunities to work directly with families affected by the disease. If you want to learn more about the benefits of volunteering with MND Scotland, please [visit our website](#), or contact [volunteer@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@mndscotland.org.uk) and get involved with work that matters.

Volunteer with MND Scotland today

## Research round-up



In July, we welcomed news from The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) that granted marketing authorisation for **tofersen**,

a new drug for the treatment of SOD1 MND. SOD1-MND is a rare genetic subtype of MND, accounting for about 2-3 % of total MND cases in Scotland.

**Tofersen** is a targeted treatment that stops the faulty SOD1 code from being used to make SOD1 protein, reducing the amount of toxic material being made. **Tofersen** will now be considered by NICE and SMC (Scottish Medicines Consortium) to determine whether it can be provided by the NHS.

[\*\*Read more about tofersen on our website.\*\*](#)

Over the last few months, the research team has been working to highlight the wider impact of the research that we fund. We recognise that sometimes it takes a number of small discoveries to come together, or ensuring precious resources are available, for meaningful progress to occur.

- A powerful example is our investment in early-stage research, which helped Professor Tom Gillingwater, University of Edinburgh, launch **terazosin** on its path to clinical trial. [\*\*Read more about terazosin here.\*\*](#)
- Another long-standing commitment is our support for the **Edinburgh Brain Bank**, a vital research resource that collects, stores, and supplies post-mortem neurological tissue from people who had MND. This irreplaceable resource is used by researchers not only in Scotland and the UK, but around the world. [\*\*Read more about our ongoing support for the Edinburgh Brain Bank here.\*\*](#)



**Make a donation  
today**

Your donations support people affected by motor neuron disease across Scotland, and fund vital research into meaningful treatments. You can make a single gift, set-up or increase your regular monthly donation.

**With your help no one in Scotland will face the unknown alone.**

[Donate today](#)

We welcome feedback on our quarterly newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from you. We also share a quarterly newsletter on support and research. If you would like to get in touch or be added to our support and research newsletter mailing list, please email:

[communications@mndscotland.org.uk](mailto:communications@mndscotland.org.uk).



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MND Scotland is the only motor neuron disease (MND) charity providing direct support to people living with MND in Scotland. We campaign to create lasting change and invest in pioneering MND research to find a cure.

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