



**EUAN
MACDONALD
CENTRE**

Vital research into motor neuron disease



Summer Newsletter 2022

Today, on Global MND/ALS Awareness Day, we are pleased to share our latest newsletter with you.

Today sees the announcement of £4.25M MND research funding from a consortium of MND charities and government organisations. Euan MacDonald Centre researchers are proud to be part of this extremely positive collaborative effort that will unite six Universities across the UK, and aims to make big progress towards the ambition of making MND treatable within years, not decades.

We are pleased to report that our clinical trial, MND-SMART, is going from strength to strength. Approximately 350 people with MND have joined the trial, and we are now open at 17 sites across the UK. We're so pleased to be able to give people the opportunity to join a clinical trial. We would like to thank everyone involved, particularly the people with MND who have helped us design and continually improve the trial to make it easier to participate.

Our other big news so far this year is that the Euan MacDonald Centre has recently hosted the 'European Network to Cure ALS' (ENCALS) scientific conference in Edinburgh. Over 600 MND researchers from across Europe (and some from further afield) joined us for a three-day marathon of science and networking. For many this was the first in-person conference since the Covid-19 pandemic and the atmosphere was buzzing with ideas, interactions and collaborations to propel MND research forward even faster.

As always we would like to say thank you to our generous donors and fundraisers, without whom much of our research would not be possible.



£4.25M grant kick starts UK-wide collaborative MND research effort

This is extremely positive news for the MND research landscape. We are delighted that Euan MacDonald Centre researchers at the University of Edinburgh are among those at six UK Universities to benefit from this new funding, which comes from a consortium of MND charities and government organisations.

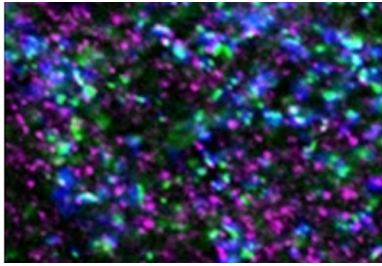
[Read the funding announcement](#)

MND-SMART trial update: interim analysis results

An independent trial committee recently reviewed the first data for the drugs currently being tested. They decided that both should continue in the trial, collecting more information to see if they slow the progress on MND.

[View a short summary video here](#)





Specialised cellular connections may play a role in MND

In March, Euan MacDonald Centre scientists from St Andrews and Edinburgh published research findings indicating that specialised connections between cells called tripartite synapses may play a key role in MND.

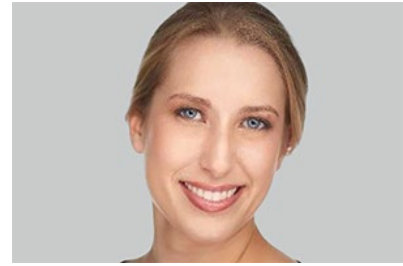
[Read about this hi-tech microscopy study](#)



Current practices for cognitive assessment in MND

An international analysis of clinical assessment of thinking, learning and memory in MND suggests that doing such an assessment has a positive impact on people with MND, their caregivers and healthcare professionals' practice.

[Find out more about the survey's findings](#)



Fellowship success for Centre member Dr Zsafia Laszlo

Congratulations to Dundee-based early-career researcher Dr Zsafia Laszlo who has been awarded an MND Association Lady Edith Wolfson Junior Non-Clinical Fellowship award to continue her research on glial cells in MND.

[Read about Zsafia's research](#)



European Network to Cure ALS (ENCALS) conference 2022

The Euan MacDonald Centre was delighted to host over 600 MND researchers from across Europe at the ENCALS2022 conference earlier this month. After over two years of planning and with lots of helpers, the meeting came together brilliantly. ENCALS2022 was hailed a great success and an excellent way for the European MND research groups to make connections, share their findings and drive the MND research field forwards.

[Read a report on the ENCALS conference](#)



Fantastic Fundraisers

With the lessening of Covid restrictions fundraising was back up and 'running' in 2022.

We're grateful to all our community fundraisers who have raised funds in various ways to help support our research.

If you would like to be inspired to fundraise and support our work then [get in touch with Kerry Mackay](#); she'd be delighted to help and offer advice.

You can also click on the pictures opposite to find out more about these upcoming fundraising events.

Join us on a
Kiltwalk in 2022
50% discount

great scottish
run
1st & 2nd October 2022

emf edinburgh
marathon
festival

MND-24: a new global fundraising initiative

In March 2022, the Euan MacDonald Centre received over £7,500 in funding from MND24. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this new annual event. Please watch out for news later in the year about how you can get involved in 2023!

[Read all about MND24](#)

www.euanmacdonaldcentre.org



The Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neuron Disease Research

is based at the University of Edinburgh and is a not-for-profit, charitable network of over 200 researchers across Scotland.

We use research to improve the lives of people living with motor neuron disease (MND) and related conditions.

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