



Winter Newsletter 2020

Although Covid-19 continues to pose challenges for our researchers, we're excited to be back in the labs. We're continuing the journey to learn more about MND, improve quality of life for people diagnosed with the disease and find new treatments.

To help reassure you that MND research has still been moving forward in 2020, check out our short end of year film below.

Since our last newsletter in the summer, our innovative clinical trial, MND-SMART, has continued recruitment in Edinburgh and has opened trial centres in Dundee and Glasgow and, our first English site, in Salford. Our first participant in the trial back in March was Alan Gray. You can [read about Alan's experiences on the trial here](#).

We hope you'll enjoy reading about new researchers, retirees, published research, conferences and our supporters in this update. For even more information on our work, you can also always go online to www.euanmacdonaldcentre.org. Click on news for the latest updates.

A massive thank you to everyone who supports us and have a wonderful Christmas and happy Hogmanay!

Click below for a short video round-up of our research in 2020



Our research in 2020



New Principal Investigators

We recently welcomed four new Principal Investigators to the Centre: Dr Leeanne McGurk from Dundee, and Dr Bhuvaneish T Selvaraj, Dr Chris Sibley and Dr Jenna Gregory from Edinburgh.

All are working on different aspects of MND research in Scotland and bring our total number of Principal Investigators to 32.

[Read more about their work](#)



Retirement of Centre's founding Professor

Professor Richard Ribchester was instrumental in founding the Euan MacDonald Centre in 2007. To mark his recent retirement, Centre colleagues organised an online symposium and shared MND research findings, pirate tales and paid tribute to Richard and his career. We were thrilled that Euan and Donald MacDonald were able to join the meeting too and give their own very personal tributes to Richard.

Colleagues highlighted that the Professor is known for his mentorship of young researchers and groundbreaking science alongside his 'RRR' initials. (Say it out loud to understand the pirate references!)

[Read more about the event](#)

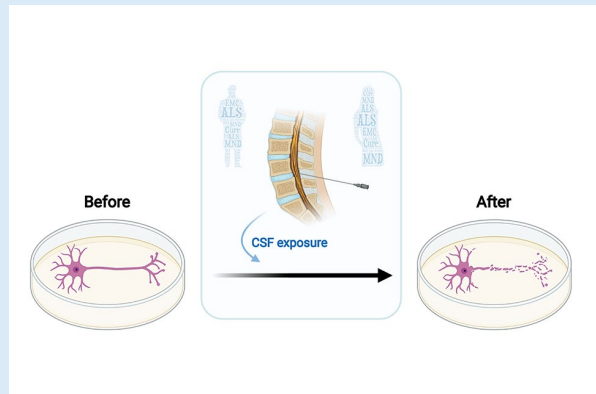
Recently published research



Cognition & mental health neglected in MND clinical trials

The findings of a recent review encourage future clinical trials to evaluate the impact of drugs on psychiatric health and cognition.

[Find out more about the research](#)



Toxic effect of cerebrospinal fluid in MND

A review of scientific literature has revealed that cerebrospinal fluid obtained from people with ALS/MND is damaging to cells.

[Find out more about the research](#)

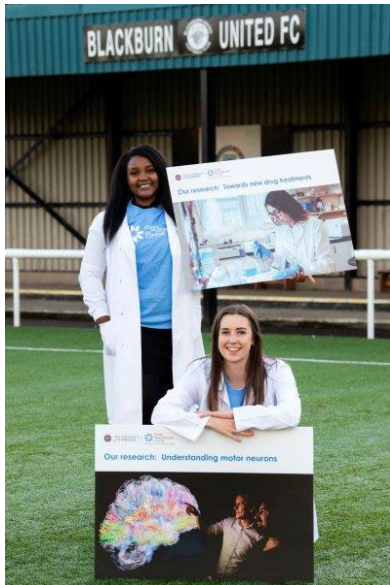
Fantastic fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who has raised funds for us this year. It has been a tough year but it has sparked creativity amongst our supporters about how to generate funds.

[Read our 2020 fundraising round-up](#)

Like to help fund MND research in 2021?
[Visit our website](#) for ideas about how to get involved.





Youth football team honours legacy of MND research champion

The Blackburn United under-16s from West Lothian are raising awareness of MND Research to honour the legacy of Tam Agnew, who died of MND earlier this year, aged 45.

The team's home strips will bear the logo of the Euan MacDonald Centre as a tribute to Tam and the work of his sister, Sharon Wallace, who has volunteered with the team over the last decade.

Researchers Brenda Murage and Emily Beswick visited the players at the start of the season to share information about MND and the event was covered STV news.

[Find out more](#)

Researchers join international conference

Over 1000 MND researchers joined together online at the start of December for the MND Association International Symposium on ALS/MND.



A large number of Euan MacDonald Centre researchers presented their work at the conference which is designed to foster collaborations and share new understanding of MND as quickly as possible. [Read more about the conference and presenters](#)

www.euanmacdonaldcentre.org



The Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone 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 neurone disease (MND) and related conditions.

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