



# MND Professionals' **Community** of Practice

## 2022 Networking event

National Conference Centre, Birmingham  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 4pm

## Communicating for great care, for patient quality of life and for learning

**This is not a conference!** You will not be sat theatre style listening to presentations. What you *will* have are six workshop sessions where ideas and concepts will be shared to get you thinking and, importantly, questioning.

With this event we are bringing you a unique opportunity to take time out to network with fellow professionals, talk, probe, ask questions and maybe get hands on with equipment. Learning through doing and exploration.



This event has been certified by the CPD Certification Service.

### Keynote speaker:

**Steven Bloch, Professor of Communication and Social Interaction,  
Division of Psychology and Language Sciences,  
University College London.**

Professor Bloch's current research includes understanding conversation in end-of-life care and naturally occurring interaction featuring people living with MND in conversation at home with family members.

A therapy programme for people living with progressive conditions based on this research is now in development.



## The sessions

### Hot topics in MND and communication: your quick-fire guide

**Presenters:** Jan Clarke, Nurse Consultant, National Hospital of Neurology and Neurosurgery and Jennifer Benson - Independent Speech and Language Therapist specialising in MND

Come and join us for fast paced discussions on current hot topics in communication and motor neurone disease. We'll move through the journey of a person with MND looking at all aspects of their communication.

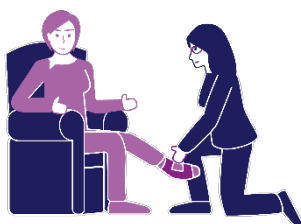
We'll be covering topics such as voice banking, low tech communication aids, communicating while in hospital, advice to families and communication partners, supporting difficult discussions and many more. Come and hear our top tips and share yours in this interactive session.



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### Getting hands on for change!

**Presenters:** Dr Malabika Ghosh - Principal Lead Occupational Therapist, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, NHS Foundation Trust and Jennifer Rolfe - Consultant Occupational Therapist



In this workshop you will get hands on and explore solutions to the physical and complex challenges faced by people living with MND. Every case of MND is unique and requires a personalised solution. We will examine effective assessment with demonstrations of posture management, orthotics and specialist equipment solutions to manage issues faced by people living with MND and their families and carers.

You will have a chance to handle commonly used equipment and orthotics – with the added bonus of MND expert occupational therapists there to answer all your questions.

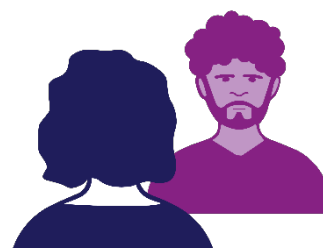
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### End of Life in MND

**Presenter:** Alison Morton - Clinical Nurse Specialist Palliative Care, University College of London Hospital

What is a good death? And what do we need to do to ensure that a good death is achieved by a person living with MND? What tools & resources are available? Who can help us?

This interactive session, which includes a game of 'A Gift of Grace', will lead you and your colleagues through a stimulating discussion around this important topic. This will be followed by an opportunity to explore and share ideas about how you as health care professionals protect yourselves and maintain resilience when dealing with emotion and distress.



## Top tips and new tips in dysphagia

**Presenters:** Jan Clarke, Nurse Consultant, National Hospital of Neurology and Neurosurgery London and Jennifer Benson - Independent Speech and Language Therapist specialising in MND



Dysphagia management remains a challenging topic in MND from a number of different perspectives. Join us to talk about the always tricky topic of secretion management and how best to navigate this. The question of therapy for swallowing difficulties in MND has also been a difficult one historically, as there has been very little we could offer. Research now strongly suggests benefits of EMST (Expiratory Muscle Strength Training) in improving and maintaining swallow.

Come and learn more about this exciting area, and talk to us about how you can embed this into your dysphagia practice.

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## Managing risk and supporting choice in nutrition and hydration in advanced MND

**Presenters:** Liz Anderson - Nutrition in Nursing Lead Nurse for Nutrition at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Karen Robinson – Consultant Dietitian

This workshop will cover risk feeding and the management of people who decline feeding tubes, including those who later change their minds but have advanced disease so tube feeding is no longer an option.

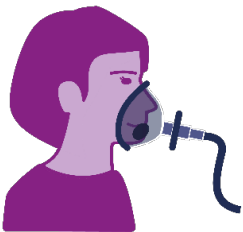
Three experts will be on hand – one each from speech and language therapy, nursing and dietetics to present and answer questions on illustrative case studies on this critical area of MND care. They are very keen that you bring along case studies of your own for discussion and collaborative learning.



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## Respiratory Management in MND

**Presenters:** Kathryn Crawford, Respiratory Specialist Physiotherapist, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Tracey McDonald, MND Specialist Physiotherapist, Lancashire & South Cumbria, Alison Armstrong Nurse Consultant – Long Term Ventilation, Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust and Ema Swingwood - Respiratory pathway lead physiotherapist - University Hospitals Bristol



An interactive workshop demonstrating respiratory adjuncts including cough augmentation techniques, lung-volume recruitment, respiratory muscle training and non-invasive ventilation.

A great opportunity to discuss the clinical signs indicating need for input, care needs/carer burden, timing of interventions and to trouble shoot any particular issues/complex patients.

## Closing session

### Who is looking after you?

#### Selfcare and wellbeing as a health and social professional

**Presenter:** Kate Jackson - Independent Occupational Therapist

You are invited to join Kate for some reflective space and time to prioritise your own health and wellbeing needs.

As health and social care professionals, you give emotionally and physically to others, in challenging environments, often feeling that there is little time available to attend to your own wellbeing. Kate will explore a range of tips and tools to use that will help to identify and address your own wellbeing needs.



The session will take a grounded and compassionate approach and include reflective activities with time for discussion with peers and an action plan to take away to implement after the conference.

## The Venue



### National Conference Centre

Coventry Road  
Bickenhill  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B92 0EJ

## Directions

### By car:

J6 of the M42, follow signs to The National Motorcycle Museum from all approach roads.

Free parking on site, including charge points for [electric cars](#) and disabled parking.

Birmingham City Centre – 20 minutes drive  
Central Manchester – 2 hours drive  
Central Leeds – 2 hours drive  
Central Bristol – 2 hours drive  
Central London – 2 hours drive

### By train:

Nearest station is Birmingham International – 5 minute taxi journey

#### Other stations:

Birmingham New Street – 25 minute drive  
Birmingham Snow Hill – 20 minute drive  
Solihull – 10 minute drive

## We look forward to meeting you!

If you have any queries in advance of the event, please email [CoP@mndassociation.org](mailto:CoP@mndassociation.org)