



29th international symposium on ALS/MND

Glasgow

Scotland, UK

7 – 9 December 2018

First announcement Call for papers

Hosts: MND Scotland

Organised by the Motor Neurone Disease Association
in co-operation with the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations



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7 – 9 December 2018, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

The International Symposium on ALS/MND is a unique annual event that brings together leading international researchers and health and social care professionals to present and debate key innovations in their respective fields.

The Symposium is planned as two parallel meetings, one on biomedical research and the other on advances in the care and management of people affected by ALS/MND. Joint sessions consider issues of mutual concern, challenging current views and practices.

Organiser of the Symposium:

Motor Neurone Disease Association

10-15 Notre Dame Mews,
Northampton NN1 2BG, UK
Tel: (-) 44 1604 250505
Email: symposium@mndassociation.org
Website: www.mndassociation.org/symposium

The Symposium is being held in co-operation with:

The International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations

Tel: (-) 1 202 627 0993
Email: alliance@als-mnd.org
Website: www.alsmndalliance.org

Host for the Symposium:

MND Scotland

2nd Floor, City View, 6 Eagle Street
Glasgow G4 9XA, Scotland, UK
Tel: (-) 44 141 332 3903
Email: info@mndscotland.org
Website: www.mndscotland.org.uk

Symposium Programme Committee:

Kevin Talbot
(Chair, Programme Committee)
Siddharthan Chandran
(Chair, clinical research and management meeting)
Gareth Miles
(Chair, biomedical research meeting)
Steve Bell
Brian Dickie
Richard Ribchester
Jeffrey Rosenfeld
Carolyn Young

Biomedical research meeting

Chair of the biomedical research meeting:

Gareth Miles, University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK

This year the 29th International Symposium on ALS/MND will be held in Glasgow, Scotland and we would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all. The vibrant, historic city of Glasgow will provide an ideal backdrop upon which to share the latest advances within the ALS/MND scientific community.

Scotland has a long and impressive history of invention and discovery, from the Scottish Enlightenment of the 18th and early 19th centuries to, closer to our research hearts, the discovery of motor neuron pools in the spinal cord by George Romanes. Scotland is, of course, also the birthplace of the world's most famous sheep, Dolly.

The Scottish scientific spirit is now very much focussed on advancing the understanding and treatment of ALS/MND. As a research community, we have benefited greatly from the tireless efforts and generosity of people with MND and their families who have, alongside organisations such as MND Scotland, brought ALS/MND to the forefront of the minds of the public and legislators. We have also benefited from the continued growth of Scotland's multidisciplinary, collaborative ALS/MND research community, which has been facilitated by its central hub, the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research, established thanks to the generosity and vision of Euan and his family. We look forward to extending our community to include many visitors from around the world at the Symposium.

At this year's Symposium we will share and discuss the most important new advances in our understanding of ALS/MND disease mechanisms and focus on how recent discoveries can be translated into novel therapeutics that will change the lives of those affected by ALS/MND. Specific areas of focus will include: perturbations in RNA processing, genetics and genomics, new disease models, deficits in axonal transport, stability and degradation of proteins, synaptic pathology and neuroinflammation.

As well as allowing you to immerse yourself in cutting-edge ALS/MND research, we hope your visit to this year's Symposium will also enable you to experience a selection of the many impressive historic sights, stunning landscapes and outdoor pursuits that Scotland has to offer.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Proposed platform session themes include:

- **RNA processing and dysregulation**
- **Single cell biology**
- **Genetics and genomics**
- **Disease models**
- **Novel drug targets**
- **Axonal transport**
- **Protein stability and degradation**
- **Synaptic pathology**
- **Neuroinflammation**

Clinical research and management meeting

Chair of the clinical research and management meeting:

Siddharthan Chandran, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Glasgow, an ancient city that has a long history of industrious activity. Built on the River Clyde, and famous for shipbuilding, Glasgow has been the main port of Scotland for over 300 years and today is Scotland's largest city. Its rich and diverse culture, from the arts to technology and entrepreneurship, combined with the legendary friendliness of the Glaswegians, make this a fitting and inspiring venue for the 29th International Symposium on ALS/MND.

Glasgow provides a gateway to a country whose visionary thinking has been world-renowned for centuries. Explanations offered for this include the Scottish work ethic, the respect for (and pride in) education and even 'the abundance of rain keeps people in!' The University of Glasgow was established in 1451 and is the fourth oldest in the English-speaking world. The city has deep scientific roots, including the work of Lord Kelvin (physicist), Joseph Lister (antiseptics) and James Watt (engineer) and has fostered great minds such as Adam Smith (economist and philosopher) and James Wilson (one of the Founding Fathers of the United States)

Scotland can also claim to be world-leading in empirical thinking and clinical research from its earliest foundations when, in 1747, Scottish physician James Lind undertook what is considered to be the first controlled clinical experiment in history. He divided 12 sailors who had scurvy into groups of two and gave each group a different dietary supplement, concluding that lime juice had a beneficial effect (albeit, he thought, because of its acid).

It is pertinent, then, to be discussing clinical trials and trial design as one of the key topics at this Symposium. Trial technology has moved forward enormously, and there are exciting prospects for innovation in clinical trials in ALS/MND. We will also be examining the latest updates in clinical care; from evaluation and biomarkers to cognitive change, caregiver support and end-of-life care. I firmly believe that clinical and biomedical research are inextricably linked and that interdisciplinary and collaborative studies provide the best hope for people with ALS/MND. I am therefore greatly looking forward to working with my colleague and co-Chair Gareth Miles to deliver an inspiring and optimistic Symposium.

We hope you enjoy your stay in Glasgow and have time to soak up some cultural highlights before or after the Symposium. Visit a Charles Rennie Mackintosh exhibition, enjoy the stunning architectural and natural landscapes, and be sure to drink an Irn Bru with your fish supper or haggis!

Proposed platform session themes include:

- **Comprehensive clinical evaluation**
- **Assistive technology**
- **Cognitive change**
- **Respiratory management**
- **End of life care**
- **Clinical trials and trial design**
- **Caregiver support**
- **Surrogate markers**
- **Nutrition and metabolism**

Call for abstracts

Glasgow, Scotland, UK, 7-9 December 2018

Summary of Conditions of Acceptance

All abstracts must be submitted online, via a link on the MND Association's website (www.mndassociation.org/symposium). Abstracts cannot be accepted via fax or email.

Abstracts must be in English, and be no longer than 450 words.

Authors should provide a clear description of methodology and present statistically robust data (including 'n' and 'p' values), where appropriate.

Authors may submit an abstract for consideration in one of three categories: oral, poster or work in progress/care practice (WIP/CP) poster presentations.

WIP/CP is defined as: preliminary work (little or no data/results), care practice or case studies.

All abstracts will be made available to download from the MND Association's website prior to the Symposium.

Abstracts accepted as 'WIP/CP' will be published on the MND Association's website.

All other abstracts will be published in an open access supplement to the journal Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration.

The corresponding author must provide an email address to which all Symposium correspondence will be sent.

Please ensure you have the correct permissions to submit your abstract (eg from collaborators or funders).

Where an abstract is accepted as a poster presentation, at least one author is required to register and present the poster in person at the Symposium.

Authors will also be asked to confirm if the presenting author is eligible and willing to be included in the poster prize competition (see below).

Full instructions and Conditions of Acceptance will be available on the MND Association's website following the opening of the formal submission system in mid-April 2018. These must be read before an abstract is submitted.

Queries should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org.

Formal acceptance of an abstract is conditional upon payment of the registration fee.

Abstract submission system open: Mid-April 2018

Deadline for abstract submission: 6 June 2018

Poster Prize

The International Symposium on ALS/MND poster prize celebrates early-stage career ALS/MND researchers' outstanding work, presented at the conference poster session.

Prizes will be awarded for the best clinical and best biomedical posters presented at the conference.

Early career researchers are eligible to enter if they are aged 35 years or under on the abstract submission deadline date OR if they were awarded their PhD within the last three years.

The initial stage of judging will be based on the abstracts, as submitted by the abstract submission deadline of 6 June 2018. Final judging of shortlisted posters will take place at the conference.

Full terms and conditions for the poster prize will be available on the MND Association's website (www.mndassociation.org/symposium) following the opening of the submission system in mid-April 2018.

Welcome to Glasgow



There's so much to explore and enjoy in this beautiful, vibrant city. You'll find world-class visitor attractions, diverse neighbourhoods, stunning architecture, a vibrant food and drink scene and legendary nightlife.

Housing one of Europe's largest civic art collections, Glasgow has a fantastic mix of world-class museums, galleries and award-winning visitor attractions, with many free to visit. It's also the only place in the world that has a concentration of attractions and architecture



created by the iconic Charles Rennie Mackintosh; from his Art Nouveau wonders to the medieval Glasgow Cathedral and neo-Gothic University of Glasgow, the city has a rich and varied architectural heritage. Enjoy exploring unique and distinct neighbourhoods, each with their own personality, vibe and hidden gems.



Glasgow has an ever-evolving food and drink scene and Finnieston is considered the city's 'foodie quarter', with a brilliant mix of cool, quality and affordable venues. When it comes to bars, it's no longer just about Scotland's national drink, whisky: Glasgow is firmly part of the craft beer and gin revolution with a number of independent breweries and dedicated gin bars popping up across the city.



Glasgow is consistently voted as the top place to shop in the UK outside London's West End. There is no shortage of mega malls, well-known brand names and speciality shopping, as well as fashion brands and independent boutiques; visitors really are spoilt for choice!



Exploring a little further afield, you can ignite your sense of adventure with snow sports and rock climbing or just 30 minutes from the city, you can discover the beauty of Loch Lomond. Golf fans can also travel easily from Glasgow to championship standard golf courses and if you'd like to see how whisky is produced, a distillery visit is a must.

From a cutting edge arts scene that's envied across the globe to family friendly attractions and unique visitor experiences, there really is something for everyone in Glasgow!



Discover the delights of Glasgow by visiting the following websites:

www.peoplemakeglasgow.com

www.glasgowguide.co.uk

www.visitscotland.com

Registration

Online registration is available from March at www.mndassociation.org/symposium/register

A provisional Symposium programme will be available on our website in August.

The final programme will be available in November.

Fees (payable in £ Sterling):

Early Bird Registration	(until 22 August)	£400.00
Standard Registration	(23 August – 14 October)	£450.00
Late Registration	(15 October – 20 November)	£510.00
Last Minute and Onsite	(21 November onwards)	£800.00

General information

The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

Symposium venue

Scottish Event Campus (SEC)
Glasgow, Scotland, UK
G3 8YW

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Travel

By Rail

Glasgow is well-connected by train from across the UK. Glasgow Central station links Glasgow to every UK city and Glasgow Queen Street station operates routes mainly to central and northern Scotland. Once in the city centre, the SEC is a three-minute train ride from Glasgow Central.

The SEC has its own dedicated railway station – Exhibition Centre – allowing easy access from the city centre and suburbs. There are six trains an hour (around every 10 minutes) from Glasgow Central station, departing from Platform 17 (low level).

Further information can be found at:
www.sec.co.uk/visitor-information/how-to-get-here/train

By Air

Glasgow is served by three international airports, with connections across the world.

Glasgow Airport (GLA) is located 8 miles (13km) west of the city.
www.glasgowairport.com

Glasgow Prestwick Airport (PIK) is 32 miles (51km) southwest of the city.
www.glasgowprestwick.com

Edinburgh Airport (EDI) is 39 miles (63km) from Glasgow.
www.edinburghairport.com

Information about travel to the SEC from each airport can be found at:
www.sec.co.uk/visitor-information/how-to-get-here/plane

To check if you require a visa to enter the UK, please visit:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration

Accommodation

Accommodation information will be published on our website. Please see www.mndassociation.org/symposium for updates.

Follow symposium deadlines and news on Twitter [#alsymp](https://twitter.com/alsymp) www.twitter.com/mndresearch