



28th international  
symposium  
on ALS/MND

# 28th international symposium on ALS/MND

# Boston

USA

8 – 10 December 2017

## First announcement Call for papers

Hosts: The ALS Hope Foundation and ALS Therapy Development Institute

Organised by the Motor Neurone Disease Association

in co-operation with the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations



# 28th International Symposium on ALS/MND

8 – 10 December 2017, Boston, USA

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 611845 or 611822  
Fax: (-) 44 1604 611858  
Email: [symposium@mndassociation.org](mailto:symposium@mndassociation.org)  
Website: [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)

## The symposium is being held in co-operation with:

### **The International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations**

Email: [alliance@als-mnd.org](mailto:alliance@als-mnd.org)  
Website: [www.alsmndalliance.org](http://www.alsmndalliance.org)

## Hosts for the symposium:

### **The ALS Hope Foundation**

PO Box 40777, Philadelphia,  
PA 19107, USA  
Tel: (-) 215 568 2426  
Email: [info@alshopefoundation.org](mailto:info@alshopefoundation.org)  
Website: [www.alshf.org](http://www.alshf.org)

### **ALS Therapy Development Institute**

300 Technology Square, Suite 400  
Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
Tel: (-) 617 441 7200  
Email: [info@als.net](mailto:info@als.net)  
Website: [www.als.net](http://www.als.net)

## Symposium Programme Committee:

Kevin Talbot  
*(Chair, Programme Committee)*  
Carlayne Jackson  
*(Chair, clinical research and management meeting)*  
Jeffrey Rothstein  
*(Chair, biomedical research meeting)*  
Steve Bell  
Brian Dickie  
Terry Heiman-Patterson  
Steve Perrin  
Jeffrey Rosenfeld

# Biomedical research meeting

## Chair of the biomedical research meeting:

**Jeffrey Rothstein, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA**

The 28th International Symposium on ALS/MND will be held in Boston, USA and we warmly welcome all of you to one of the birthplaces of USA medical research. This is the first time the event has travelled to Boston and we are excited to welcome you here for science, education, advances and collaboration. From an ALS perspective, Boston has strong roots in biomedical research, from the first gene discovery more than 20 years ago now translating to some of the newest gene-based therapies in patients just underway. Boston is headquarters to some of the finest ALS clinical and basic research, as well as a site for major pharma and biotech based research operations.

The last few years have seen tremendous advances in ALS basic, preclinical and clinical research. Highly organized and coordinated international and regional collaborations – the largest ever in ALS history – are now underway and reports from these efforts will stimulate new ideas and partnerships. The plethora of new genes, not just in familial ALS but apparent sporadic patients, along with new animal and human cellular models, promises to change the face of our understanding of ALS pathogenesis and its translation to novel interventions. Excitingly the generation of big patient data sets including clinical and biological measurements,

along with impressive academic and private partnerships in data analytics promises to offer new ways to sort out patient subgroups and devise new therapeutic opportunities.

The 28th International Symposium on ALS/MND will focus on cutting-edge biomedical and device based research aimed at understanding a wide range of topics.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Proposed platform session themes include:

- **RNA processing and dysregulation**
- **Cell stress mechanisms**
- **Management and analysis of Big Data**
- **Genetics and genomics**
- **Disease models**
- **Drug discovery and preclinical development**
- **Protein misfolding and degradation**
- **Synaptic pathology**
- **Neuroinflammation**

# Clinical research and management meeting

## Chair of the clinical research and management meeting:

**Carlayne Jackson, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, USA**

This year we are proud to host the 28th International Symposium on ALS/MND in Boston, Massachusetts, one of the oldest cities in the United States. Boston's rich history includes many 'firsts' in the United States including the first public school, first subway system, and the first public park. Boston continues to be considered a world leader in entrepreneurship with nearly 2,000 startup companies. It is in this spirit of innovation that we will focus on emerging assistive technology, such as brain-computer interfaces, that facilitate independence and improve quality of life for our ALS patients. We will also explore creative options for the delivery of care, including telemedicine and telemonitoring.

Boston is sometimes called 'a city of neighborhoods' because of the profusion of diverse subsections. In this spirit of diversity, we will also explore management strategies centered on the control of disease-related symptoms. In addition, we will provide a forum to discuss options for end of life care, including physician assisted suicide. These areas of disease management have little 'evidence' to provide guidance and consensus continues to guide the majority of patient care decisions.

Boston was the scene of several key events in the American revolution, and its residents have endured tremendous periods of conflict as well as prosperity. In this spirit of compassion and endurance, we will address the 'human' element of ALS patient care. This topic is difficult to address in a scientific forum, but this year we will seek to cover critical issues revolving around caregiver

burden, support for children living with a parent with ALS and management strategies for the behavioral manifestations of frontotemporal dementia.

Boston – a city of innovation and diversity, rich in history (including tragedy and triumph) – is the perfect backdrop to host the 28th International Symposium on ALS/MND. It will be a time in which we can learn of novel trial designs and outcome measures. We will also learn the results of recent clinical trials and the development of biomarkers that can accelerate our knowledge of disease mechanisms.

The city of Boston and our ALS/MND clinical program has something for everyone!

Proposed platform session themes include:

- **Disease classification**
- **Assistive technology**
- **Telemedicine and telemonitoring**
- **Cognitive change**
- **Respiratory and nutritional management**
- **End of life care**
- **Clinical trials and trial design**
- **Caregiver support**
- **Surrogate markers**

# Call for abstracts

**Boston, USA, 8 – 10 December 2017**

## Summary of conditions of acceptance

---

All abstracts must be submitted online, via a link on the MND Association's website ([www.mndassociation.org/symposium](http://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 abstracts for poster presentations outlining preliminary work or care practice but they must be submitted as 'Work in Progress/Care Practice (WIPCP)'. If not, abstracts may be rejected if they do not contain sufficient data and conclusions.

---

Case studies will be treated as 'WIPCP' unless, in the opinion of the Programme Committee, they add significant new knowledge to the field.

---

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

---

Abstracts accepted as 'WIPCP' 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 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 late-March 2017. These must be read before an abstract is submitted.

---

Any queries should be sent to [abstracts@mndassociation.org](mailto:abstracts@mndassociation.org).

---

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

---

**Abstract submission system open: Late-March 2017**

**Deadline for abstract submission: 26 May 2017**

## 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 for the 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 26 May 2017. 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](http://www.mndassociation.org/symposium)) following the opening of the submission system in late-March 2017.

---



# Welcome to Boston



Kyle Klein

**Welcome to Boston, Massachusetts** – a quintessential blend of colonial history and cutting-edge innovation. From the charming cobblestones of Beacon Hill and revolutionary landmarks of the Freedom Trail, to the iconic grounds of Harvard University and Fenway Park, Boston is a showcase of Americana.

There's plenty to see and do in Boston. Treasures and exhibits abound in the city's famed museums and when it comes to



GBCVB



GBCVB



shopping, there are plenty of boutiques, department stores and brand name outlets to cater to everyone from fashionistas to window shoppers. Theatre marquees are lit year-round and the city's music scene hits all the right notes from classical to rock and every genre in between. If you love sports then you won't be disappointed: as a spectator or a participant, you'll be spoilt for choice!

Boston's dining options are dynamic and delicious and restaurants present signature dishes made from the freshest local ingredients. New restaurants and old favourites cater to every palate and budget. Contemporary cuisine, traditional New England fare with a few twists and an eclectic mix of international and ethnic dishes make for exceptional dining.

Boston is a cosmopolitan hub where tradition and innovation interact every day. From bygone trails and artefacts to fringe theatre, from inspirational architecture to dining on local fare, from the old masters to the new brew masters, there's something for everyone.



Pixabay



GBCVB



Boston Harbor Association

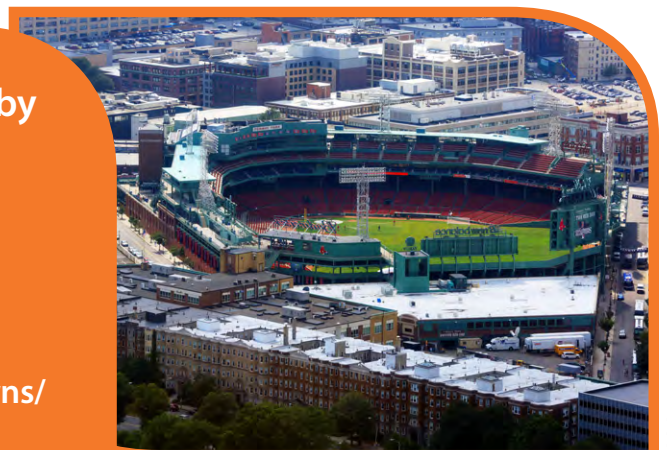
**Discover the delights of Boston by visiting the following websites:**

[www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com)

[www.visitboston.org](http://www.visitboston.org)

[www.boston.gov/visiting-boston](http://www.boston.gov/visiting-boston)

[www.massvacation.com/regions-towns/greater-boston](http://www.massvacation.com/regions-towns/greater-boston)



GBCVB

# Registration

Online registration is available from March at [www.mndassociation.org/symposiumregistration](http://www.mndassociation.org/symposiumregistration)

A provisional symposium programme will be available on our website in August. The final programme will be available in November.

## Fees:

Early Bird Registration	(until 16 August)	<b>£420.00</b>	payable in £ Sterling
Standard Registration	(17 August – 15 October)	<b>£470.00</b>	payable in £ Sterling
Late Registration	(16 October – 19 November)	<b>£530.00</b>	payable in £ Sterling
Onsite	(20 November onwards)	<b>£800.00</b>	payable in £ Sterling

# General information

The symposium proceedings will be in English.



## Symposium venue

The Westin Boston Waterfront  
425 Summer Street  
Boston, MA 02210  
USA

## Travel and accommodation

Boston Logan Airport is around 15 minutes from The Westin Boston Waterfront by public transport.

The Silver Line (SL1) bus stops at the nearby World Trade Center station, which is around a seven minute walk from the venue. Information about this service can be found at [www.mbta.com/schedules\\_and\\_maps/bus/routes/?route=SL1](http://www.mbta.com/schedules_and_maps/bus/routes/?route=SL1)

To check if you require a visa to enter the USA, please visit [www.travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit.html)

Accommodation information will be published on our website. Please check [www.mndassociation.org/symposium](http://www.mndassociation.org/symposium) for updates.

Follow symposium deadlines and news on Twitter  **#alssymp**  
[www.twitter.com/mndresearch](http://www.twitter.com/mndresearch)