

Neuroprogressive Conditions Research

Reflecting on progress



NEUROPROGRESSIVE
AND DEMENTIA

One year on from the inaugural Neuroprogressive Conditions Research Day (April 2018), hosted by NRS Neuroprogressive and Dementia and the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) of Scottish Government, a range of innovative research studies and exciting funding awards have opened, helping to build future research capacity in Scotland across a range of neuroprogressive conditions.

Research portfolio

Commercial and non-commercial studies have increased across the NRS NDN portfolio, including:

- **WAVE**, a phase1b/2a commercial study for intrathecal administration of the study drug for people with Huntington's Disease in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
- **PDComm**, a non-commercial study looking at the intervention of speech and language therapy in Parkinson's Disease, with NHS Lothian the top recruiting site in the UK
- **STARTUP**, a study to establish if Tibial Nerve Stimulation (TNS) reduces lower bladder symptoms for people with Parkinson's Disease. Sites are open in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and NHS Lothian
- **PD Dysk**, a study Parkinsons Disease in NHS Tayside has recruited 200% of target due to joint working with NRS NDN
- **Mirocales**, an MND multi-centred study with sites in France and across the UK, with the first Scottish site recently opened at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow.



Spotlight on

futureMS



Funded as part of the £4 million Precision Medicine Ecosystem investment announced by the First Minister in 2016, Future MS is a Scottish-wide study collecting clinical data and samples from recently diagnosed, treatment naïve, relapsing-onset multiple sclerosis (RRMS) patients.

The study aims to integrate clinical, laboratory and genomic data to model individualised disease activity and in the long-term support a more personalised approach to clinical management. **The project is due to complete its initial phase in late 2019 and has reached its recruitment target of 440 patients.**

Promoting neuroprogressive research across Scotland

A range of conferences and events are further promoting the excellent neuroprogressive research work taking place across Scotland; including Huntington's Disease and other Neurodegenerative Disorders in Scotland: New Summits to climb which was held in March 2019.

Stay up to date with relevant events at www.nrs.org.uk/ndn



Research funding and programmes

Scottish Seedcorn Fund for Neurological Research

Launched in March 2019, this is a collaborative initiative between the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) and the RS Macdonald Charitable Trust, providing 'seedcorn grants' of up to £15,000 each. The grants will enable researchers from across Scotland's Universities to test innovative ideas related to neurodegenerative or neurodevelopmental conditions, including Multiple Sclerosis. The first round of grants will be awarded later this year following a competitive bid process.

SPRINT MS/MND Ph.D. programme

Funded by the Scottish Government and a consortium of Edinburgh, St Andrews, Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, a resource of 13 Scottish-based Ph.D students in MND/MS research is being created, led by Professor Siddharthan Chandran, University of Edinburgh. The first 2 annual cohorts of students have been recruited, with the recruitment process for the 3rd cohort underway. In addition, CSO is funding 2 Ph.D studentships in MS at the University of the West of Scotland under the supervision of Dr Nicolas Sculthorpe. This investment is being matched by the University, adding a total of 4 Ph.D's to the pool of MS research capacity in Scotland.

Joint-funded Clinical Academic Fellowships

- **MND Scotland** – awarded in 2019 following open competition to Dr Liz Elliot, based at the University of Edinburgh focussed on *Understanding the pathogenesis of disease progression in sporadic ALS*
- **Parkinson's UK** – awarded in 2019 following open competition to Julie Jones, based at Robert Gordon University, focussed on *A collaborative approach to exercise provision for people with Parkinson's – a feasibility study of the PDConnect programme.*

Senior Clinical Academic Fellowship

A prestigious Senior Clinical Academic Fellowship was successfully awarded to Dr Esther Sammler at the University of Dundee. Funded by the Chief Scientist Office and the University of Dundee, this 5 year fellowship will involve lab bench to bedside research in Parkinson's aimed at finding cures through improved understanding of the disease.



Attracting research to Scotland and providing more opportunities for patients is a truly collaborative effort. We thank all those involved in supporting our continued efforts to advance understanding of these devastating diseases, so we can develop better treatments and services for those affected. A follow up conference is planned in 2020, in the meantime stay up to date with our work.

Get in touch with the Network

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