



OVER \$4 MILLION AWARDED FOR MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA

For the second year in a row MND Australia has allocated almost \$1.4 million to Australian scientists for new research projects into the cause, care, control and cure of motor neurone disease (MND).

Fifteen projects across the country have been awarded grants to commence in 2012. They span areas such as genetics, mouse models, protein aggregation, monitoring disease progression and cognition and behaviour.

All the research funds come from donations to MND associations. Professor Dominic Rowe, Chairman of the MND Research Committee says, "We have been able to allocate almost \$1.4 million once again this year which is about ten times the amount awarded seven years ago. This is a huge boost for MND research in Australia".

"Thanks to the generous support from the community, more researchers are taking up the challenge to make the next leap forward in MND research," he said.

MND Australia encourages young researchers to pursue motor neurone disease as their dedicated field of interest. The new Bill Gole Postdoctoral MND Research Fellowship has been awarded to Dr Shyuan Ngo from the University of Queensland, Centre for Clinical Research and School of Biomedical Sciences.

MND affects around 1400 people across Australia at any given time and takes the life of more than 12 Australians every week.

"We urgently need to understand the causes and how to better care for people and control the disease whilst researchers worldwide search for a cure," said Professor Rowe.

MND Australia supports both emerging and established researchers to develop new projects so they can generate results and attract funding for larger projects through sources such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

A further \$2,665,500 has been provided by NHMRC to new MND projects commencing in 2012, which, with the \$1.357 million provided by MND Australia, makes a grand total of \$4,022,500 for all new grants for MND projects commencing in Australia in 2012.

About the MND Australia research grants: MND Australia research grants are allocated in a hotly contested national competition each year at the MND Australia Research Committee Grants Allocation Meeting. This year 15 applicants from NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia were successful.

The recipients of the 2012 MND Australia research grants are:

One three-year Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2012 to 2104 awarded to:

Dr Shyuan Ngo	University of QLD Centre for Clinical Research & School of Biomedical Sciences	Investigating the mechanisms underlying defective energy metabolism in motor neuron disease	Bill Gole Postdoctoral Fellowship for MND Research (No.11)
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Twelve grants in aid awarded to:

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project title	Grant awarded
Dr Julie Atkin	La Trobe University, VIC	Failure of ER-Golgi trafficking as a central mechanism of toxicity in MND	Susie Harris Memorial Fund Grant
Dr Ian Blair	ANZAC Research	Identifying and establishing the role	Peter Stearne Grant

	Institute, NSW	of new MND genes in familial and sporadic cases	for Familial MND research
Dr Tim Karl	Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW	A novel mouse model for MND	Mick Rodger Benalla MND Research Grant
Dr Pamela McCombe	University of Queensland Centre for Clinical research, QLD	MND: not a simple disease	Charles & Shirley Graham MND Research Grant
Dr Eneida Mioshi	Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW	Cognitive and behavioural changes in MND: relation to clinical phenotypes and impact on carer burden	MND Victoria Research Grant
Professor Garth Nicholson	ANZAC Research Institute, NSW	Sporadic MND: the contribution of genes, biomarkers & metabolites	Graham Smith MND Research Grant
Dr Mary-Louise Rogers & Prof Robert Rush	Flinders University, SA	Improving targeted down-regulation of SOD1G93A in MND mice	Roth Foundation MND Research Grant
Dr Bradley Turner	Florey Neuroscience Institutes, VIC	Exploring the therapeutic potential of survival motor neuron protein for MND	Mick Rodger MND Research Grant
Assoc Prof Steve Vucic	Institute for Immunology & Allergy Research, Westmead, University of Sydney, NSW	T cells: a vehicle for neuroprotection in ALS?	Connie's Step Forward for MND Research Grant
Dr Robyn Wallace	Queensland Brain Institute, QLD	Analysis of TDP-43 target genes in C. elegans	Zo-ee MND Research Grant
Dr Anthony White	University of Melbourne, VIC	Targeting kinases to control TDP-43 and FUS accumulation in motor	Terry Quinn MND Research Grant
Dr Mark Wilson	Biological Sciences, University of Wollongong, NSW	Protein aggregation and chaperones: key players in MND	Rosalind Nicholson MND Research Grant

One three-year MNDRIA/NHMRC PhD scholarship for 2012 to 2104 awarded to:

Dr Neil Simon	Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW	The distribution and spread of motor system dysfunction in early motor neurone disease	MNDRIA / NHMRC co-funded PhD Scholarship
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A three-year PhD Top-up grant for 2012-2014 will be announced soon.

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For further information or to interview Professor Rowe please contact Janet Nash, 0419297413 or Carol Birks 0408461932

www.mndresearch.asn.au