

ABOUT MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA



MS Research Australia is the largest national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to funding, coordinating, educating and advocating for multiple sclerosis (MS) in Australia as part of the worldwide effort to solve MS. Our goal is to accelerate research into the cause, treatments and prevention of MS, with the ultimate aim of finding a cure for MS. A small team of dedicated individuals are responsible for all of the aspects of the operation, ensuring overheads are low. Therefore, more of the fundraising dollar can be directed straight into the best MS research projects.

ABOUT MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA GRANTS



MS Research Australia has a robust and transparent research strategy that involves scientific experts thoroughly critiquing all our research to ensure that we are targeting the research priorities identified by the MS community in Australia. The International Research Review Board serves as a scientific advisory group to MS Research Australia. They assist in identifying the strengths of Australian research and helps ensure that MS Research Australia's strategy complements the global MS research effort. Our Research Management Council consists of a multidisciplinary team that oversees the peer-review process of all funding applications and funding allocations for investigator-driven research. Every research applications is evaluated on both its scientific merit and relevance to MS. The grant process is conducted with integrity and transparency, and is modelled on the most stringent grant review systems worldwide, including the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council review process.

For more information on the scientific committees, research strategy and funded projects please visit www.msra.org.au

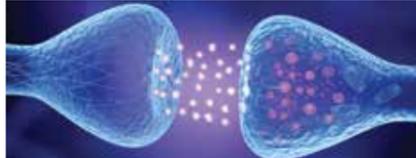
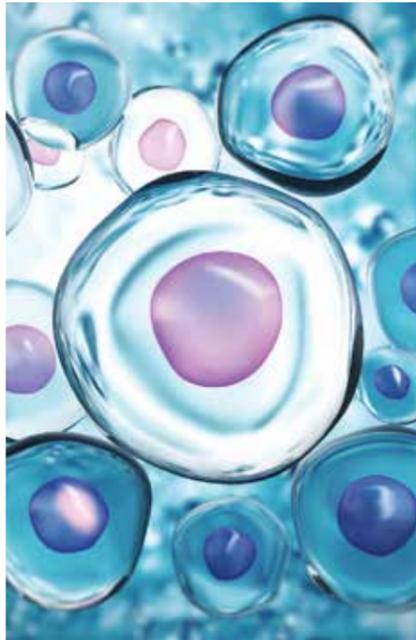
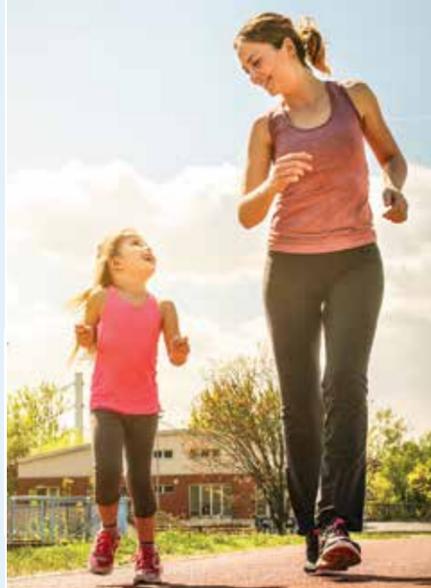
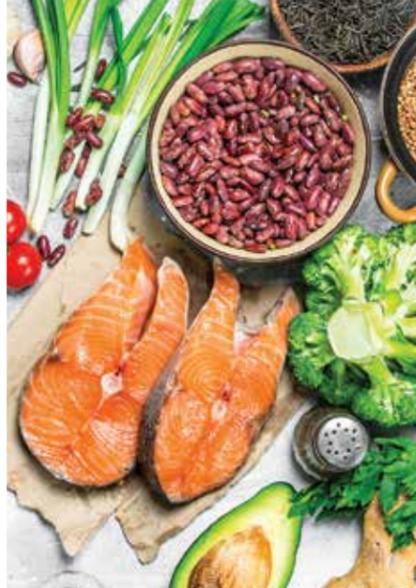


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SNAPSHOT

PROJECTS STARTED IN 2020 FUNDED BY MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

	IDENTIFYING THE TRIGGERS FOR MS	DEVELOPING BETTER TREATMENTS	A CURE FOR MS VIA REPAIR OR REGENERATION OF CELLS
NEUROBIOLOGY	 <p>Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW Professor Sanjay Swaminathan is looking into controlling Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) as a therapy for MS.</p>	<p>Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TAS Dr Kalina Makowiecki is determining how losing nerve cell insulation in the brain causes memory problems in MS.</p>	<p>Monash University, VIC Dr Steven Petratos is developing a new drug to repair the brain in MS.</p> <p>University of Sydney, NSW Associate Professor Michael Buckland is investigating the role of a protein in the brain in the clearance of myelin debris in MS.</p> 
GENETICS & EPIDEMIOLOGY	<p>Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW Professor Sanjay Swaminathan is looking into controlling Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) as a therapy for MS.</p>	<p>Monash University, VIC Associate Professor Anneke Van der Walt is investigating self-monitoring to proactively detect changes in neurological function in MS.</p>	
IMMUNOLOGY		<p>Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, VIC Professor Trevor Kilpatrick is developing new therapies for MS based on immune dendritic cells.</p> <p>Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW Dr Grant Parnell is defining how vitamin D affects the immune system, to be used as a combined therapy for MS.</p> <p>The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, VIC Professor Gabrielle Belz is generating neuroprotective immune molecules in the gut.</p> <p>Telethon Kids Institute, WA Dr Stephanie Trend is investigating antibody-driven inflammation in MS.</p> <p>St Vincent's Hospital, NSW Dr Jennifer Massey is working to understand the immune system changes following AHSCT.</p> <p>Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, VIC Dr Vivien Li is developing a therapy for MS based on modifying cell signals to prevent immune system activation.</p> <p>Alfred Health and Monash University, VIC Dr Wei Yeh is determining how vitamin D affects the immune system in MS as well as predictors of relapse in pregnancy.</p>	
SOCIAL & APPLIED RESEARCH		<p>Deakin University, VIC Dr Wolfgang Marx is exploring the role of diet on mental health in people with MS.</p> <p>University of Tasmania, TAS Dr Julie Campbell is creating and testing health economics information to assist with better funding decisions to help people with MS.</p> <p>Swinburne University of Technology, VIC Dr Lisa Grech is improving detection and treatment of depression in people with MS.</p> <p>Australian National University, ACT Dr Jo Lane is investigating the acceptability of an online intervention for fatigue in MS called ELEVIDA.</p> <p>The University of Queensland, QLD Dr Matthew Nangle is addressing the oral health needs of people with MS.</p> <p>The University of Sydney, NSW Associate Professor Laurence Macia is investigating the role of intermittent fasting and a gut bacteria-derived molecule in a MS laboratory model.</p> <p>Australian National University, ACT Dr Jo Lane is travelling to Baltimore and Vancouver to improve detection of MS activity and progression, and optimise personalised medicine.</p>	

KEY PROJECT GRANT FELLOWSHIP SCHOLARSHIP INCUBATOR GRANT TRAVEL AWARD

NEUROBIOLOGY

Working across Australia

The MS Research Australia Brain Bank, based at the University of Sydney, is securing valuable MS tissue from donors across Australia, to be used by researchers to advance our understanding of the neuropathology of MS.



Working across Australia

Haematologists and neurologists around Australia are running the Australian MS Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (AHSCT) Register. They track the effectiveness of this chemotherapy treatment with bone marrow transplants to treat MS.

Working across Australia and internationally

MS Research Australia is a managing member of the International Progressive MS Alliance to accelerate treatments for progressive MS.

University of Melbourne, VIC

Associate Professor Peter Crouch is conducting preclinical trials of a copper-based therapy for progressive MS.

Brain and Mind Centre, NSW

Dr Chenyu Wang will use MRI to monitor silent disease progression in MS.

Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science, WA

Ms Lillian Toomey is investigating whether damage to myelin support drives MS at a molecular level.

Brain and Mind Centre, NSW

Dr Justin Garber is using MRI to track disease and severity in progressive MS.

University of Newcastle, NSW

Dr Saadallah Ramadan is investigating how MRI can be used to evaluate the treatment of fatigue and depression in MS.

University of Melbourne, VIC

Dr Junhua Xiao is investigating how nerve cells influence myelin repair in the brain.

University of Melbourne, VIC

Dr Simon Murray is investigating ways to promote myelin repair in the brain.

Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, VIC

Professor Trevor Kilpatrick is investigating how a protein called Tyro3 affects the formation of myelin.

University of Melbourne, VIC

Associate Professor Richard Hughes is developing a new treatment for MS based on peptides that promote myelin growth.

GENETICS & EPIDEMIOLOGY

Working across Australia

ANZgene is a major collaboration mapping the genetic make-up of people with MS to identify which genes influence MS susceptibility and why.

Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW

Professor Rodney Scott is identifying markers of gene activity that are associated with disease onset and severity.

Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TAS

Dr Yuan Zhou is studying genes on the X chromosome to discover why more females than males develop MS.

Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Mr Jeremy Keane is investigating if the effect of sex hormones on immune cells contributes to gender imbalance in MS.

Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Mr Stephen Schibeci is investigating if the Epstein-Barr Virus affects the risk of MS through interaction with MS risk genes.

Working across Australia and NZ

The PrevANZ Vitamin D Prevention Trial is measuring whether vitamin D can prevent MS in people at high risk of developing the disease.

James Cook University, QLD

Professor Alan Baxter is looking at the role of immune gene networks in MS.



IMMUNOLOGY

Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Professor David Booth is developing a test in immune cells for individual vitamin D response.



University of Queensland, QLD

Dr Stefan Blum is developing a test to personalise treatment with the MS medication, natalizumab.

University of Sydney, NSW

Professor Georges Grau is determining the types and numbers of different immune cells during times of remission in MS.

Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Dr Fiona McKay is researching the role of immune cells called NK cells in MS.



SOCIAL & APPLIED RESEARCH

Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TAS

Associate Professor Ingrid van der Mei manages the Australian MS Longitudinal Study, which is tracking the practical issues in the lives of people affected by MS, including quality of life, economic impact and employment.

University of Melbourne, VIC

Dr Claudia Marck is working towards eliminating smoking among people with MS by understanding smoking behaviour.



Working across Australia and NZ

The MS Research Australia Clinical Trials Network coordinates information about MS trials for the MS community.

University of Queensland, QLD

Professor Mary Galea is tackling walking and balance changes in people with MS.

University of Sydney, NSW

Associate Professor Ollie Jay is investigating ways to reduce heat-related fatigue in people with MS.

Curtin University, WA

Dr Lucinda Black is identifying dietary factors that reduce the risk of onset and early disease progression in MS.

Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TASC

Ms Alice Saul is examining the role of diet in symptoms and progression of MS.

Monash University, VIC

Mr Daniel Merlo is studying if a web-based program can measure changes in thinking abilities.

Australian National University, ACT

Dr Nasser Bagheri is developing a new decision-making tool that can be used by people with MS and health professionals for monitoring, reviewing and improving MS care in the ACT region.

University of Queensland, QLD

Professor Julie Henry is investigating social cognition, mental health and quality of life in people with MS.

University of Adelaide, SA

Dr Diana Dorstyn is developing and testing an online forum to help motivate and encourage people with MS to explore work and study options.

Australian National University, ACT

Dr Jane Desborough will develop a toolkit for scientists and people with MS to work together on collaborative MS research.

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A CURE FOR MS VIA REPAIR OR REGENERATION OF CELLS