

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 help 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 application 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 2021 FUNDED BY MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

	CAUSES AND PREVENTION	DEVELOPING BETTER TREATMENTS	A CURE FOR MS VIA REPAIR OR REGENERATION OF CELLS
NEUROBIOLOGY	<p>Monash University, VIC Professor Jonathan Baell is developing a new imaging test to assess the progression of MS in clinical trials.</p> <p>University of Tasmania, TAS Associate Professor Brad Sutherland is examining the role of the blood brain barrier to determine how MS begins.</p> <p>Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TAS Dr Kalina Makowiecki is investigating the relationship between myelin loss, nerve cell circuits and thinking and memory symptoms in MS.</p>	<p>La Trobe University, VIC Dr Jacqueline Orian is exploring the role of platelets in MS with the aim of developing a new MS therapy.</p> 	<p>University of Sydney, NSW Associate Professor Anthony Don is investigating lipid signalling receptors to assess their ability to protect and restore myelin in MS.</p> 
GENETICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY	 <p>Monash University, VIC Associate Professor Anneke Van Der Walt is testing the level of SARS-CoV2 antibody in people undergoing treatment for MS during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> 	<p>Monash University, VIC Associate Professor Anneke Van Der Walt is testing the level of SARS-CoV2 antibody in people undergoing treatment for MS during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
IMMUNOLOGY	<p>Monash University, VIC Dr Mastura Monif is looking at the role of a receptor on an immune cell type called monocytes to see if it could be a new therapeutic target in MS.</p> 	<p>Australian National University, ACT Associate Professor Anne Bruestle is exploring a new approach using liposomes to improve the delivery, effectiveness and safety of existing MS treatments.</p> <p>St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research, NSW Dr Malini Visweswaran is examining immune cells in people undergoing autologous haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (AH SCT) for MS.</p> <p>University of Newcastle, NSW Professor Rodney Scott is developing a blood test for specific DNA fragments from brain cells to differentiate between types of MS.</p> <p>University of Sydney, NSW Associate Professor Laurence Macia is determining whether increasing dietary protein can reduce the clinical severity in models of MS.</p> <p>University of Sydney, NSW Mr Ali Afrasiabi is investigating ways to limit the effects of EBV-infected B cells as a new therapeutic strategy in MS.</p> 	
SOCIAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH	<p>Curtin University, WA Dr Lucinda Black is exploring the role of dietary polyunsaturated fatty acids on both the onset and the progression of MS.</p> <p>University of Melbourne, VIC Dr Charles Malpas is studying different aspects of thinking and memory impairment in MS to develop a model for use in the clinic.</p> 	<p>Murdoch University, WA Dr Yvonne Learmonth is exploring crisis resilience in people living with MS with the aim of developing guidelines for managing MS in emergencies</p> <p>Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW Dr Phu Hoang is investigating walking patterns in MS in order to develop guidelines for healthcare professionals to use when treating leg weakness.</p> <p>University of Melbourne, VIC Dr Claudia Marck is developing improved information and resources to guide decision making around smoking for people with MS.</p> <p>Monash University, VIC Dr Lisa Grech is researching depression in MS, exploring the detection and treatment of depression through healthcare services.</p> <p>The University of Wollongong, QLD Dr Vivienne Guan is developing a mobile phone app to tailor advice and assist people with MS to make healthier food choices.</p> <p>Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science, WA Dr Marzena Pedrini is exploring the effect of specialised music programs on walking patterns and exercise motivation in MS.</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.

Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TAS

Dr Kalina Makowiecki is determining how losing nerve cell insulation in the brain causes memory problems in 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 Queensland, QLD

Dr Lachlan Rash will test a new treatment option to protect against nerve damage in progressive 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.

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.

GENETICS AND 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.

Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Professor Sanjay Swaminathan is looking into controlling Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) as a therapy for 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 New Zealand

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

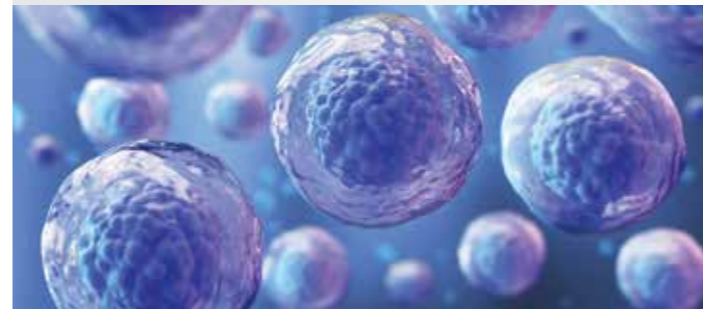
Professor Alan Baxter is looking at the role of immune gene networks in MS.



IMMUNOLOGY

Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

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



Westmead Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Dr Nicole Fewings is researching the role of immune cells called NK cells in MS.

University of Queensland, QLD

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

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.

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, VIC

Professor Gabrielle Belz is generating neuroprotective immune molecules in the gut.

Telethon Kids Institute, WA

Dr Stephanie Trend is investigating antibody-driven inflammation in MS.

St Vincent's Hospital, NSW

Dr Jennifer Massey is working to understand the immune system changes following AHSTC.

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.

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.

Monash University, VIC

Professor Raymond Norton is optimising the delivery of a new therapy to immune cells in MS.

University of Sydney, NSW

Associate Professor Fabienne Brilot-Turville is identifying people with MS-like diseases to optimise treatment and outcomes.

Australian National University, ACT

Professor David Tscharke is tracking safety, infections and markers of response to cladribine treatment in people with MS.



SOCIAL AND APPLIED RESEARCH

Working across Australia

The Australian MS Longitudinal Study is tracking the practical issues in the lives of people affected by MS, including quality of life, economic impact and employment.



Working across Australia and New Zealand

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

Working across Australia

InforMS is developing an online MS Patient-Centred Portal to facilitate self-management of healthcare by people with MS and shared decision making with their care team.

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.

Deakin University, VIC

Dr Wolfgang Marx is exploring the role of diet on mental health in people with MS.

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.

Menzies Institute for Medical Research, TAS

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

Australian National University, ACT

Dr Jo Lane is investigating the acceptability of an online intervention for fatigue in MS called ELEVADA.

The University of Queensland, QLD

Dr Matthew Nangle is addressing the oral health needs of people with MS.

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.

Murdoch University, WA

Dr Helen Correia is exploring both the caregiver experience and the caregiving relationship in MS to provide better support for carers.

University of Adelaide, SA

Dr Simranjit Sidhu will investigate whether non-invasive brain stimulation can reduce fatigue in MS.

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.

Australian National University, ACT

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

CAUSES AND PREVENTION

DEVELOPING BETTER TREATMENTS

A CURE FOR MS VIA REPAIR OR REGENERATION OF CELLS