



30th international
symposium
on ALS/MND

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Perth

Australia

4 – 6 December 2019

First announcement Call for papers

Hosts: MND Australia

Organised by the Motor Neurone Disease Association
in co-operation with the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations



30th International Symposium on ALS/MND

4 – 6 December 2019, Perth, Australia

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 250505
Email: symposium@mndassociation.org
Website: www.mndassociation.org/symposium

The Symposium is being held in co-operation with:

The International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations

Email: alliance@als-mnd.org
Website: www.alsmndalliance.org

Host for the Symposium:

MND Australia

Unit 6, 2 Phipps Close
Deakin ACT 2600
Australia
Tel: 61 2 8287 4980
Email: info@mndaustralia.org.au
Website: www.mndaust.asn.au

Symposium Programme Committee:

Kevin Talbot
(Chair, Programme Committee)
Matthew Kiernan
(Chair, clinical research and management meeting)
Tracey Dickson
(Chair, biomedical research meeting)
Samar Aoun
Nick Cole
Brian Dickie
Nick Goldup
Bradley Turner
Justin Yerbury

Biomedical research meeting

Chair of the biomedical research meeting:

Tracey Dickson, University of Tasmania, Australia

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 30th International Symposium on ALS/MND to be held in Perth, Australia. Thirty years is quite a milestone, and the Symposium provides the perfect occasion for us to reflect on where we have come from and the future ahead. It has been eight years since the event was held in Australia, with this year's meeting moving us away from the east coast and allowing us to experience all that Western Australia (WA) offers. Perth, and WA more broadly, is renowned for its entrepreneurial and pioneering spirit, both excellent qualities for medical researchers, and is thus the perfect backdrop for our meeting.

Thirty years has seen great advances in ALS biomedical and clinical research. The Symposium will reflect the challenges and opportunities that remain for our field. We continue, as we should, to grapple with critical research questions, seeking the best cellular and animal models, the best biomarkers and the best trial designs. As we work towards our shared goal, we are starting to see the outcomes of large, international collaborative efforts, supported by philanthropy and industry as well as traditional academia. Also evident is the further development of creative and diverse, truly multi-disciplinary teams spanning the biomedicine and clinical research divide.

The Australian ALS/MND research community is a close knit and highly collaborative one. It provides a vehicle for excellent MND research

but also prides itself on enabling and fostering career development and mentoring. The International Symposium will also be in this spirit, focusing on showcasing our leading researchers as well as shining a light on our best and brightest at the 'up and coming' cutting edge.

Western Australia's ancient natural landscapes have been home to Aboriginal people for more than 50,000 years. We hope that the meeting, and your visit to Australia, will provide an opportunity for you to experience our country's deep Indigenous history, as well as its richly multicultural communities, wonderful beaches, fantastic food and perhaps even a drop of our many world-renowned wines!

We look forward to seeing you in December.

Proposed platform session themes include:

Genetics and genomics

Motor neuron biology and pathology

Proteostasis and proteotoxicity

RNA processing and dysregulation

Neuroinflammation

Synaptic pathology

Disease models

Bioinformatics

Target discovery and preclinical development

Clinical research and management meeting

Chair of the clinical research and management meeting:

Matthew Kiernan, The University of Sydney, Australia

The 30th International Symposium on ALS/MND will be held in Perth this year, presenting a rare opportunity to be part of the rapidly changing ALS/MND landscape whilst enjoying the spectacular surroundings of Australia's sunniest capital city. Perth, the most isolated capital on earth, is where urban cool meets raw natural beauty in a metropolis bordered by the Indian Ocean to the west and the Australian outback to the east.

This year the Symposium is driven by research, including the discovery of causal genes linked to the development of ALS, along with advances in our understanding of disease pathogenesis more generally. Problems related to clinical heterogeneity will also be a focus, with patient survival determined by factors such as clinical phenotype, rate of disease progression, specialised management of respiratory failure and nutritional status forming the core of the clinical programme.

As always, the power of coordinated international collaborations that arise from symposia such as ours serve to stimulate new partnerships. Exciting developments such as the emergence of novel biomarkers that objectively assess disease progression have already enhanced and refined the approach to clinical ALS treatment trials. This meeting, with its spotlight on research, is expected to increase the potential for new therapeutic approaches and a further improvement in survival by advancing our understanding of the origins and spread of ALS/MND. Indeed, development of early and specific diagnostic methods remains a critical need, as does the discovery of therapies that not only slow the progression of the disease, but also

address the secondary consequences of respiratory failure and malnutrition.

In keeping with these themes and other recent international developments, the Clinical Meeting of the 30th Symposium will cover the breadth of what is new in ALS/MND, from diagnostic biomarkers to current treatment trials, from cognitive issues and clinical phenotypes through to neuroimaging and most importantly, patient care.

Complementing this high-calibre scientific programme, the schedule also offers plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine and blue sky. Perth stands as the only capital where you can taste a world-class shiraz at the cellar door, picnic in one of the world's largest inner city parks and watch an ocean sunset from one of twenty white-sand beaches, all in a single day.

We hope you're inspired by the programme presented at this year's Symposium and look forward to seeing you in Perth!

Proposed platform session themes include:

Respiratory and nutritional management

Cognitive change

Support for caregivers and families

Decision sharing and person-centred care

Assistive technology and telemedicine

Translating evidence not practice

Bulbar ALS/MND

Clinical trials and trial design

Surrogate markers

Other motor neuron diseases

Call for abstracts

Perth, Australia, 4-6 December 2019

Summary of Conditions of Acceptance

All abstracts must be submitted online, via a link on the MND Association's website (www.mndassociation.org/symposium/abstracts). 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 an abstract for consideration in one of three categories: oral, poster or work in progress/care practice (WIP/CP) poster presentations.

WIP/CP is defined as: preliminary work (little or no data/results), care practice or case studies.

The corresponding author must provide an email address to which all 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.

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

Abstracts accepted as 'WIP/CP' will be published on the MND Association's website.

All other abstracts will be published in an open access online supplement to the journal Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration.

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).

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

Full instructions and Conditions of Acceptance will be available on the MND Association's website following the opening of the submission system in May 2019. These must be read before an abstract is submitted.

Queries should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org.

Abstract submission system opens: week commencing 6 May 2019

Deadline for abstract submission: 5 June 2019

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 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 5 June 2019. 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) following the opening of the submission system in May 2019.

Welcome to Perth



There's so much to see and do in the city of Perth. Situated beside the Swan River in Western Australia, it's the sunniest state capital, averaging 3,000 hours of sunshine per year. It boasts exciting architecture, inspiring museums and galleries, a diverse selection of shops, an abundance of restaurants and bars, a vibrant entertainment scene and wonderful open spaces. You really will be spoilt for choice!

Perth has architecture that will appeal to both history buffs and lovers of design, such as the Victorian Gothic façade of the Town Hall, the Art Deco splendour of the Gledden Building and the modern edifice of the City of Perth Library. If you enjoy spending time at a gallery or museum, you might like to visit an exhibition at the Perth Centre for Photography or learn more about Australia's Indigenous culture at the Aboriginal Art Gallery.

There's plenty of retail therapy on offer in Perth. The high-end fashion boutiques of King Street make it the place to be seen and the Murray and Hay Street malls are where you'll find big brands. For some eclectic vibes, head to Northbridge, Mount Lawley, Leederville, Subiaco or Victoria Park.

Perth's many dining options are constantly evolving. The city is a food lover's paradise, boasting a wide range of fresh produce, excellent wines and a huge number of restaurants. Deciding where to eat can be a tough choice: almost every international taste is catered for, so you should have no trouble finding something to suit your mood!

Visit the city any night of the week and you'll find it full to bursting with a huge variety of entertainment. Whether you're headed to a concert at the RAC Arena, a stand-up show at the Comedy Lounge, the ballet at His Maj or seeing a local musician play at one of Perth's many bars, there's something for every taste and budget.

If you prefer a little rest and relaxation, there are plenty of open spaces in Perth where you can watch the world go by. Enjoy the beauty of Kings Park and the Botanic Garden, see the kangaroo statues at the Supreme Court Gardens or have a quiet moment on the Notting Hill bench in Queen's Gardens.

Exploring a little further afield, the beautiful wineries of the Swan Valley and a string of stunning beaches (where you can watch amazing sunsets and even swim with wild dolphins) are just a short drive away from the city and a visit to Rottnest Island to see the lovable quokkas (one of the smallest wallaby species in Australia) is a must! For sports lovers, you're sure to find an activity that caters to your sense of adventure in Perth, whether it's on the water, on land or in the air.

Combining big-city attractions with relaxed, informal surroundings, Perth has everything you need for an unforgettable visit.

Discover the delights of Perth by visiting the following websites:

www.visitperth.com.au • www.experienceperth.com • www.westernaustralia.com



Registration

Online registration is available from March at www.mndassociation.org/symposium/register

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

Fees (payable in £ Sterling):

Early Bird Registration	(until 27 August)	£400.00
Standard Registration	(28 August – 13 October)	£450.00
Late Registration	(14 October – 17 November)	£510.00
Last Minute and Onsite	(18 November onwards)	£800.00

General information

The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

Symposium venue

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
21 Mounts Bay Road
Perth, Western Australia



Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Travel

Perth is Australia's western gateway and a major hub for international air services from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and Europe.



Qantas are the exclusive airline partner for the Symposium.
Visit www.mndassociation.org/symposium for discounted fares.

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) is approximately 15km from Perth Airport and can be easily reached by taxi, bus or airport shuttle (the Elizabeth Quay Bus Station is next to the PCEC). Further information can be found at www.pcec.com.au/visit/getting-around.

Perth has a convenient and safe public transport system that services the entire metropolitan area. *Transperth*, who manages this system, operates all bus, train and ferry services in Perth. Further information can be found at www.transperth.wa.gov.au.

All visitors to Perth, except Australian and New Zealand passport holders, require a visa to enter Australia. For information concerning different visas available, contact the Australian consulate in your home country or visit <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>.

Accommodation

Accommodation information is available on our website at www.mndassociation.org/symposium/hotel-information.

Follow Symposium deadlines and news on Twitter  [#alsymp](https://twitter.com/alsymp) www.twitter.com/mndresearch