



virtual 32nd international  
symposium  
on ALS/MND



# virtual **32nd** international symposium on **ALS/MND**

## Online

7 – 10 December 2021

## First announcement Call for abstracts

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



## Virtual 32nd International Symposium on ALS/MND

7 – 10 December 2021, Online

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 sessions consider issues of mutual interest, challenging current views and practices.

### Organiser of the Symposium:

#### Motor Neurone Disease Association

Francis Crick House, 6 Summerhouse Road  
Northampton NN3 6BJ

Tel: (+) 44 1604 250505

Email: [symposium@mndassociation.org](mailto:symposium@mndassociation.org)

Website: [www.symposium.mndassociation.org](http://www.symposium.mndassociation.org)

### The Symposium is being held in co-operation with:

#### The International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations

Tel: (+) 1 647 203 2117

Email: [alliance@als-mnd.org](mailto:alliance@als-mnd.org)

Website: [www.alsmndalliance.org](http://www.alsmndalliance.org)

### Symposium Programme Committee:

Ammar Al-Chalab (*Chair, Programme Committee*)

Nick Cole

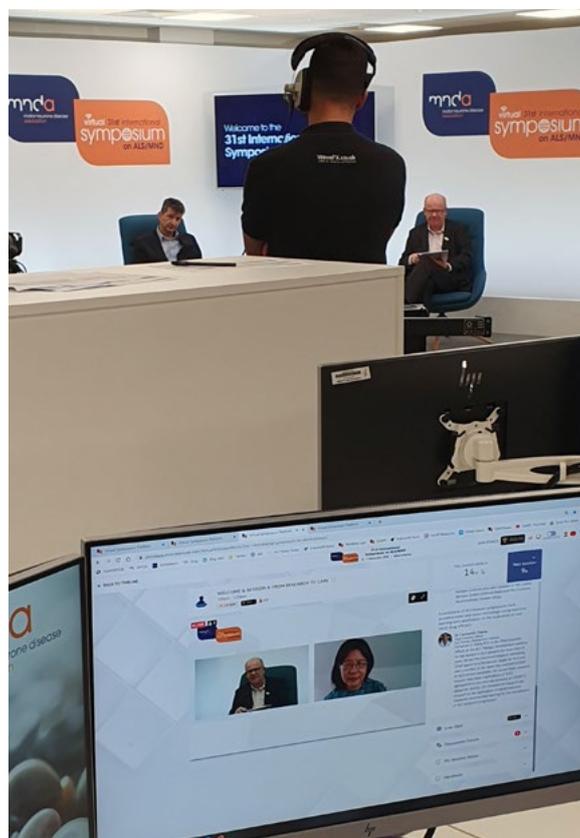
Brian Dickie

Nick Goldup

Annemarie Hübers

Kathi Schweikert

Markus Weber



## Proposed platform themes

- Clinical trials
- Metabolism and nutrition
- Cell biology and pathology
- Autonomy and decision making
- Disease models
- From bench to bedside: Industry perspectives
- Cognitive change
- Clinical management

## Proposed poster themes

- Epidemiology and informatics
- Genetics and genomics
- *In vitro* experimental models
- *In vitro* experimental models
- Human cell biology and pathology
- Tissue biomarkers
- Pre-clinical therapeutic strategies
- Clinical imaging and electrophysiology
- Clinical trials and trial design
- Disease stratification and phenotyping of patients
- Cognitive and psychological assessment and support
- Clinical management and support



Gabriel Benois



Chris Montgomery



## Call for abstracts

### Conditions of Acceptance (Summary)

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Abstracts must be submitted online, via a link on the MND Association's Symposium website (<https://symposium.mndassociation.org/abstracts>). Abstracts cannot be accepted via fax or email.

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Abstracts should be submitted by the **presenting author** of the abstract, who must provide an email address to which all Symposium correspondence will be sent. The presenting author is the **only** person who will receive email correspondence from us.

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Submissions are limited to one abstract per presenting author.

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The presenting author must register for the Virtual Symposium, and pay the appropriate registration fee (refunds will be available in the event of an abstract being rejected). A link to the registration page can be found on the MND Association's website: <https://symposium.mndassociation.org/register/>

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Authors who submit an abstract for consideration as a poster must indicate if they would be willing to accept one of the very limited oral presentation slots, should they be offered one.

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Abstracts must be in English and be no longer than 450 words. The MND Association will not proof-read abstracts, so authors must ensure their abstract is checked for grammar, understanding and accuracy.

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Authors should provide a clear description of methodology and present statistically robust data (including 'n' and 'p' values) where appropriate.

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Authors must ensure they have the correct permissions to submit their abstract (e.g. from collaborators and funders).

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Authors accepting the offer of a poster presentation must provide a poster PDF and pre-recorded 'lightning explainer' video for the ePoster Hall by 4 November 2021 (this date is provisional).

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The corresponding poster must discuss the same work as the accepted abstract.

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The presenting author must be available to take part in their allocated Live Poster Session at the Virtual Symposium.

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

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

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Full instructions and Conditions of Acceptance will be available on the MND Association's website (<https://symposium.mndassociation.org/abstracts>) before the opening of the submission system on 28 June 2021. These must be read before an abstract is submitted.

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Queries should be sent to [abstracts@mndassociation.org](mailto:abstracts@mndassociation.org).

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### Abstract submission system opens: 28 June 2021

### Deadline for abstract submission: 29 July 2021

## Poster Prize

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The International Symposium on ALS/MND poster prize celebrates early-stage career ALS/MND researchers' outstanding work, presented at the conference poster session.

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Prizes will be awarded for the best clinical and best biomedical posters, as well as for the highest popular vote.

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Early career researchers are eligible to enter if they are aged 35 years or under or within three years of their PhD on the abstract submission deadline date.

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The winners will be announced during the Symposium's closing session.

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Further details about the poster prize and full terms and conditions will be available on the Symposium website ([symposium.mndassociation.org](https://symposium.mndassociation.org)) following the opening of the submission system in June 2021.

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## Welcome to the Virtual International Symposium on ALS/MND

Last year, global events led to the postponement of the 31st International Symposium on ALS/MND due to take place in Montreal, Canada. However, the growing pace of new scientific knowledge resulted in an even greater need to share information, facilitate new connections and collaborations and continue the momentum in advancing treatments and providing better care: the very ethos behind the MND Association's creation of the Symposium.

Knowing the meeting was too important to postpone until the following year, we made the leap into the virtual world in just a few months. Due to the success of last year's event and the continued uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, this year's 32nd International Symposium on ALS/MND will once again take place online, this time over four days instead of the usual three. We very much hope you will join us.

Every year the Symposium brings the latest news and updates from the world of ALS/MND research, presented by experts in their field. Despite the circumstances, 2020 was no exception and although the meeting continued to target researchers and healthcare professionals, the virtual format meant there were no restrictions on travel, allowing for a more diverse audience (including more people living with ALS/MND). Our dedicated team of technicians, staff and hosts welcomed the world to the International Symposium on ALS/MND

from a COVID-secure studio at the Association's offices in Northampton, UK. The move from a traditional Symposium to a fully virtual event was a huge undertaking, with the programme being completely revised to suit an online platform that considered the different global time zones. But once again, our ALS/MND research community embraced the event, with a record-breaking number of over 1,800 delegates registered across 48 different countries.

So what can you look forward to at this year's Symposium? Together with a broad range of cutting-edge research topics presented and discussed during the platform sessions (complete with a discussion forum and the opportunity to engage with presenters during live Q&A sessions), researchers will also be able to showcase their work by presenting a poster supported with a 'lightning explainer' video. Our innovative 'ePoster Hall' allows attendees to visit posters at any time, and our designated Live Poster Sessions give authors the unique opportunity to present and discuss their work live with attendees.

We have also tried to replicate the 'buzz' of a face-to-face meeting in the virtual event. Through interactive opportunities such as live discussions, speed networking breaks, and the Meeting Hub (to live chat, message, call, or schedule meetings), delegates will be able to catch-up with longstanding colleagues and collaborators and make new connections with delegates across the globe.

Take a look at some of the positive and enthusiastic feedback received after last year's virtual Symposium:

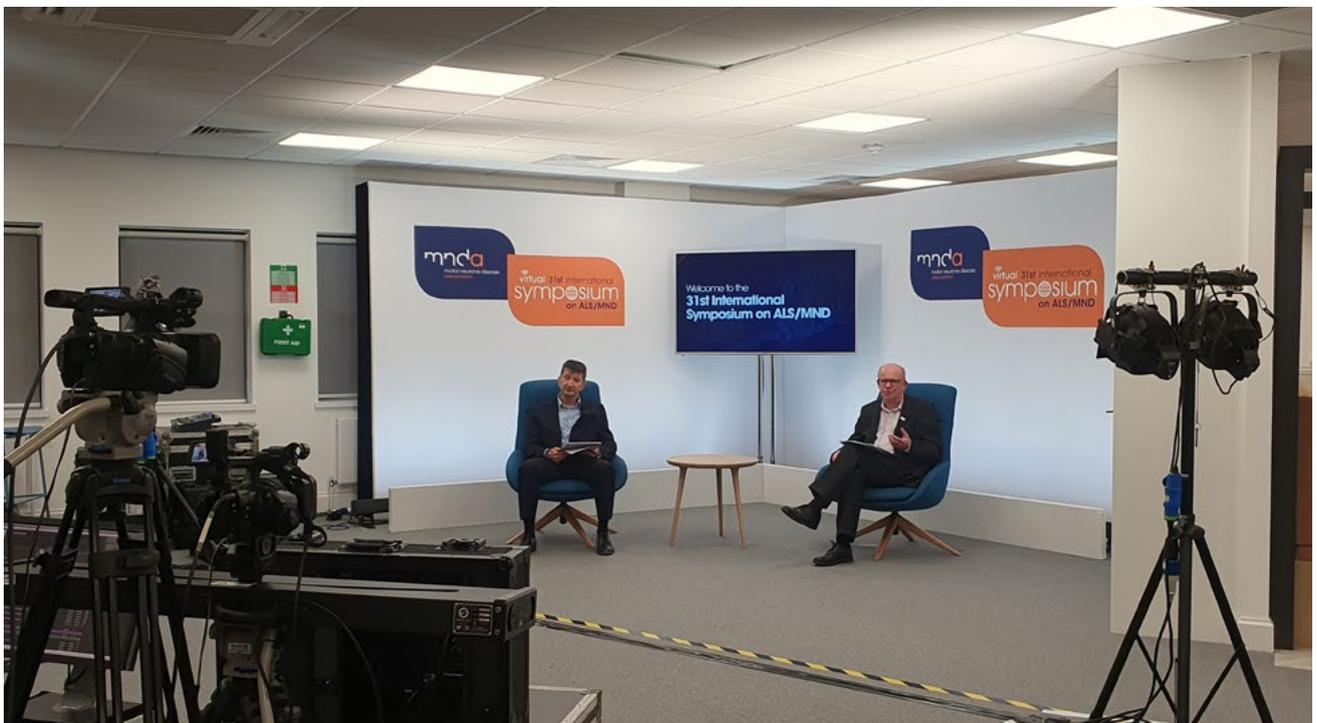
“This year's virtual #alsmndsymp has been an amazing experience and the closest to an in-person conference that I've had this year.”

“Really enjoyed attending the 31st international ALS/MND symposium this week (from the comfort of my own living room!). As a research tech starting in the field, this has been a real treat.”

“Superbly run event across the digital platform demonstrating the never give up attitude we know so well. Thank you for bringing us together yet again. One world - One cause. #TogetherWeCan.”

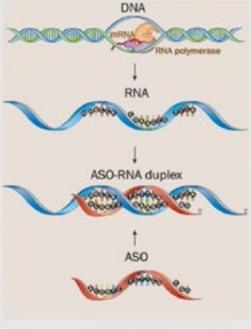
“I have been to several conferences during the pandemic and this one was the best by a mile – the platform was superb and the programme stellar.”

The 31st International Symposium on ALS/MND certainly allowed for more people, more discussion, more opportunities to ask questions and a vibrant scientific debate. We look forward to welcoming you to this year's event, which promises to be even bigger and better!



### Antisense oligonucleotides

- ASOs are short, synthetic, single-stranded nucleic acids that bind to mRNA by base-pairing and that modulate protein expression<sup>1</sup>
- There are numerous chemical classes, most of which are comprised of a phosphorothioate backbone plus one or more ribose-sugar modifications and a base modification<sup>2</sup>
- Their size and chemical characteristics prevent blood-brain barrier penetration<sup>2</sup>



ASO, antisense oligonucleotide; mRNA, messenger RNA.  
 Figure from: Sankar, D.P. Annu Rev Med. 2018; 69: 517-53.  
 2. Rowell, C. Annu Rev Neurobiol. 2018; 6: 9-31. 3. Gearing, R. et al. Adv Drug Deliv Rev. 2015; 87: 46-61.



## Registration

Online registration is available from early June at [www.symposium.mndassociation.org/register](http://www.symposium.mndassociation.org/register)

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

## Fees

Standard Registration until 1 December 2021  
**£60.00 (payable in £ Sterling).**

## Language

The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

## CME Accreditation

An application will be made to the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) and the Royal College of Physicians of London for CME accreditation of this event.

## Virtual Platform

We will be using the same virtual platform as last year, EventsAIR.

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