

mnda
motor neurone disease
association

virtual 33rd international
symposium
on ALS/MND



virtual **33rd** international symposium on **ALS/MND**

Online

6 – 9 December 2022

First announcement Call for abstracts

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



Virtual 33rd International Symposium on ALS/MND

6 – 9 December 2022, 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

Website: 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

Website: www.als-mnd.org



Proposed platform themes

- Clinical trials and trial design
- Metabolism and nutrition
- Assistive technology
- Disease presentation and heterogeneity
- Risk factors
- Harnessing 'big data'
- Cellular models for analysis and screening
- Emerging therapeutic targets
- Immunity and inflammation
- From cells to networks

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)

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.

Abstracts must 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.

Submissions are limited to one abstract per presenting author.

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/>

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.

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.

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

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

Authors accepting the offer of a poster presentation must provide a poster PDF and pre-recorded 'lightning explainer' video for the ePoster Hall by 13 October 2022 (this date is provisional).

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

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

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

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

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 6 June 2022. These must be read before an abstract is submitted.

Queries should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org.

Abstract submission system opens: 6 June 2022

Deadline for abstract submission: 12 July 2022

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, as well as for the highest popular vote.

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.

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

Further details about the poster prize and full terms and conditions will be available on the Symposium website (symposium.mndassociation.org) following the opening of the submission system in June 2022.



Welcome to the Virtual 33rd International Symposium on ALS/MND

Following the success of last year's virtual Symposium and the potential of ongoing challenges caused by COVID, the MND Association's 33rd International Symposium on ALS/MND, in December 2022, will once again be held online.

The Symposium was due to be hosted in San Diego by the ALS Association (ALSA). However, given potential further COVID spikes toward the end of the year, and taking into account costs linked to significant contractual obligations, we could not justify the financial risk of an in-person event, given the logistical and financial certainty we need to go ahead with planning an on-site event of the scale and international reach of the Symposium. Whilst we are disappointed in having to make this decision, we have done so in the knowledge that over the past two years, we have delivered extremely successful online events. Although a virtual event cannot replicate an onsite meeting, it has proven effective in maintaining communication across the ALS/MND research community and in making the Symposium more accessible to a wider international audience.

About the symposium

The key to defeating ALS/MND lies in fostering strong collaboration between leading researchers around the world and sharing new understanding of the disease as rapidly as possible. This was the MND Association's rationale behind the creation of the International Symposium on ALS/MND.

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, 2021 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). We welcomed over 1,500 registered delegates from over 44 countries, underscoring its value to the

global community. The number of delegates attending the Symposium and the reach from the online format demonstrates the continual growth in interest and investment in ALS/MND research across the world.

What's on offer this year?

Once again, careful consideration has been made to ensure the Symposium's content is engaging and, together with our audience, we can create the 'buzz' of a face-to-face meeting. Along 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. 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.

We look forward to welcoming you....

We hope the Symposium will once again motivate you to make a difference in the work you do, so that, in the words of Steve Gleason during his inspirational presentation at last year's event, you feel empowered to 'go set the world on fire'. Steve, who has ALS, urged researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals to do even more in their fight to treat, and ultimately cure, the disease and it is our hope that this year's meeting will once again stimulate new ideas, partnerships and collaborations to bring us closer to a world free from ALS/MND.

We very much hope you will join us.

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

“Excellent platform and topics! Probably the best virtual congress I have seen!”

“Very happy with this Symposium, the organization, the platform and the presentations and discussions.”

“Overall, the conference used a very useful platform.”

“Great to see a range of countries being able to demonstrate their research this year.”





Registration

Online registration is available from early June at 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 30 November 2022
£60.00 (payable in £ Sterling).

Language

The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

CME Accreditation

An application will be made for CME accreditation of this event.

Virtual Platform

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

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