



34th international  
symposium  
on ALS/MND

# 34th international symposium on ALS/MND

Basel  
Switzerland

6-8 December 2023

**First announcement  
Call for abstracts**

Host: Verein ALS Schweiz

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

# 34th international **symposium** on ALS/MND

6-8 December 2023, Basel, Switzerland

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 clinical research and management of people affected by ALS/MND. Joint sessions consider issues of mutual interest, challenging current views and practices.

## **Organiser of the Symposium:**

### **Motor Neurone Disease Association**

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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)

## **Host for the Symposium:**

### **Verein ALS Schweiz**

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4053 Basel  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 44 887 1720  
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Website: [www.als-schweiz.ch](http://www.als-schweiz.ch)

## **Symposium Programme Committee:**

Ammar Al-Chalabi  
*(Chair, Programme Committee)*  
Jennifer Bedford  
Nick Cole  
Brian Dickie  
Annemarie Hübers  
Janice Robertson  
Marc-David Ruepp  
Kathi Schweikert  
David Taylor  
Markus Weber

# Welcome

## to the 34th International Symposium on ALS/MND

**After three years in a virtual environment, we are very much looking forward to once again meeting in person and are delighted to be bringing the 34th International Symposium on ALS/MND to Basel, Switzerland.**

### 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, which is now an essential part of the ALS/MND research calendar: it plays a fundamental role, not only in facilitating the exchange of exciting new knowledge and information, but also stimulating new ideas and partnerships.

### What's on offer this year?

The Symposium Programme Committee, chaired by Professor Ammar Al-Chalabi, has considered a broad range of cutting-edge topics for this year's programme. A traditional mix of the basic and clinical science, therapy development and clinical management that is synonymous with the Symposium will be included and delegates will have the opportunity to showcase their research by being chosen to present 'on the platform' or during one of the poster sessions (which have always been a Symposium highlight). We are keen to encourage the ALS/MND research and clinical/care communities to re-engage face-to-face after three years in the virtual world, which is why we have frozen the Early Bird registration fee at the level of our last face-to-face event in Australia in 2019.

One of the advantages of holding the Symposium online is the ability for those unable to attend in person (particularly people living with ALS/MND) to participate in the event. We are keen to continue this aspect of inclusivity, so keep an eye on our website ([www.symposium.mndassociation.org](http://www.symposium.mndassociation.org)) for updates on how this year's event will be made accessible to a wider audience.

### 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 the 2021 Symposium, you feel empowered to 'go set the world on fire'. Steve, who has ALS/MND, 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 that will lead to that goal being achieved.

We very much hope you will join us as we strive for a world free from ALS/MND.

**Research Development Team**  
**MND Association**

# Themes

Proposed platform session themes include:

## Biomedical

Disease models: from cells to networks  
Motor neuron biology and pathology  
Glial-neuron interactions  
Immunomodulation and neuroinflammation  
Synaptic dysfunction/pathology  
RNA biology  
Proteostasis and proteotoxicity  
Genetics and genomics  
Bioinformatics  
Mechanisms of disease spread

## Clinical

Improving diagnosis  
Surrogate markers and clinical endpoints  
Clinical trials and trial design  
Disease heterogeneity  
Cognitive change  
Assistive technology and telemedicine  
Improving care practice and access to treatments  
Respiratory and nutritional management  
Genetic testing  
Support for caregivers and families

# Registration

Online registration is available from 9 May 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.

## Registration fees (payable in £ Sterling)

### In person (includes online registration)

Early Bird registration	(until 8 September)	<b>£400.00</b>
Standard registration	(9 September - 10 October)	<b>£500.00</b>
Late registration	(11 October - 24 November)	<b>£600.00</b>
Last minute onsite registration	(25 November onwards)	<b>£800.00</b>

### Online (to include selected live-streamed sessions and access to post-event, on-demand content)

Online registration	<b>£100.00</b>
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# Call for abstracts

## Summary of Conditions of Acceptance

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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 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.

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Submissions are limited to two abstracts per presenting author.

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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.

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Authors accepting the offer of an oral or poster presentation must attend the symposium in-person in Basel, Switzerland and be present for their assigned session.

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The presenting author is not required to fully register for the Symposium before submitting an abstract. Presenting authors will be required to pay the appropriate registration fee by 8 September 2023. Refunds will be available in the event of an abstract being rejected. Formal acceptance of an abstract is conditional upon payment of the full registration fee.

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Abstracts must be in English and be no longer than 450 words. The MND Association will not correct any errors, 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.

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

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All abstracts will be published in an open access online supplement to the journal *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration*. Abstracts accepted as 'WIP/CP' will be published on the MND Association's Symposium website.

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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).

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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 9 May 2023. These must be read before an abstract is submitted. Queries should be sent to [abstracts@mndassociation.org](mailto:abstracts@mndassociation.org).

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**Abstract submission system opens: week commencing 9 May 2023**  
**Deadline for abstract submission: 7 July 2023**

## 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.**

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Prizes will be awarded for the best clinical and best biomedical posters presented at the conference.

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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 three years of the abstract submission deadline.

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The initial stage of judging will be based on the abstracts, as submitted by the abstract submission deadline of 7 July 2023. Final judging of shortlisted posters will take place at the conference.

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Full terms and conditions for the poster prize will be available on the MND Association's website ([www.symposium.mndassociation.org/for-presenters/poster-prize](http://www.symposium.mndassociation.org/for-presenters/poster-prize)) following the opening of the submission system in May 2023.



Basel, located in northern Switzerland on the banks of the river Rhine, can look back on more than 2000 years of history, which is still very much present today and forms an exciting contrast to the modern face of the city.

Some of Basel's must-see places of interest include the Basel Cathedral (Münster), built 800 years ago in the Romantic and Gothic styles; the Pfalz viewing terrace behind the Cathedral, with its unique views of the Mittlere Brücke and Kleinbasel on the other side of the Rhine; and the Town Hall by the Marktplatz, home to the Basel government and parliament. The Spalenberg and Spalentor are also worth seeing. The city also hosts countless festive events in the run-up to Christmas: from Advent concerts and Christmas markets to special exhibitions, Basler Weihnacht offers something for everyone.

Urban food courts, cosy traditional pubs and excellent gourmet restaurants: in Basel, you can enjoy a variety of top-quality cuisine. Traditional regional and Swiss specialities, locally produced food and drink and the latest food trends... Basel has a little bit of everything!

When shopping in Basel, it's best to start your tour in the Old Town. From the busy Freie Strasse to the Marktplatz, from Spalenberg with its small boutiques and fine shops, such as the world-famous Johann Wanner Christmas House, to Manor, the city's oldest department store, you'll find everything within just a short distance in the centre. There are also many beautiful things to be found in the small shops of trendy districts such as St. Johans-Vorstadt or on Feldbergstrasse.



The city of Basel and the surrounding area has an excellent public transport network that is known for its punctuality, short waiting times and modern vehicles. Basel's green and yellow trams have become an inseparable part of the cityscape. Together with the bus network, these ensure the city's inhabitants and visitors alike can move themselves quickly and comfortably around the city and even across the border into the neighbouring countries of France and Germany. As a hotel guest in the city on the Rhine, you may also profit from the BaselCard, which allows you to use the public transport network for the entire duration of your stay. The BaselCard is included with every hotel stay. Thanks to its manageable size, the city of Basel is also easy to explore on foot and you can find your way around using the grey information boards at key locations of the city centre.

If winter sports are your thing and you don't mind venturing a little further afield, there are several ski resorts within an hour's drive of Basel, including Grindelwald, Andermatt and Chateau d'Oex. For history lovers, the Roman ruins of Augusta Raurica are an easy day trip from the city.

**Basel is a place of exciting contrasts, with much to offer its visitors.**

Content courtesy of [www.basel.com](http://www.basel.com)

**Discover the delights of Basel by visiting these websites:**

[www.basel.com](http://www.basel.com) [www.myswitzerland.com/en-gb/destinations/basel](http://www.myswitzerland.com/en-gb/destinations/basel)

# General information



The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

## Symposium venue

Congress Center Basel  
Messepl. 21, 4058 Basel, Switzerland

## Travel

Basel, situated in the north of Switzerland and in the centre of Europe, is an exhibition and congress city where everything is close to hand. Messe and Congress Center Basel is located at the heart of the city. The old town, shopping streets and numerous museums and parks are within easy walking distance and just a few minutes away by public transport.

Getting to Basel couldn't be easier – you can fly to EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, take the train to one of Basel's three railway stations, or come by car via the well-developed road network. And Zurich international airport is similarly just a stone's throw away, with direct rail connections in 90 minutes.

### Getting there by air

EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg is 15 minutes by car from Messe Basel. Basel municipal transport's No. 50 bus additionally provides a straightforward connection from the airport to the SBB/SNCF railway station. From there, tram No. 1 or 2 will take you directly to Messeplatz/Exhibition Square.

### Getting there by rail

Basel is an international rail hub with direct ICE, IC and EC connections to Germany, Austria, Italy, France and the Benelux countries. Messe Basel

can be reached in five to ten minutes from the three railway stations in Basel: SBB (Switzerland), SNCF (France) (Frankreich) and DB (Badischer Bahnhof, Germany)

### Getting there by road

Basel is located at the point where the Swiss, German and French motorway networks all meet. The exhibition and congress site has its own direct link to the A2 motorway. The 'Messe' exit will take you straight to the Messe Basel car park with its 1,200 parking spaces.

### Getting to the venue by tram while staying in Basel

Guests staying in Basel hotels are given a personal guest card when they check in. **This BaselCard gives them free use of public transport in the city and its surroundings** (including the EuroAirport) for the entire duration of their stay. The card also offers additional benefits, such as free WiFi in Basel and reductions for a large number of cultural and leisure activities in the region.

In front of Messe and Congress Center Basel there are tram and taxi stations.

There are plenty of hotels, restaurants and bars in walking distance from the venue. Enjoy a short walk and feel the vibe of the city.

## Accommodation

Accommodation information will be available on our website at [www.symposium.mndassociation.org/accommodation](http://www.symposium.mndassociation.org/accommodation)

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