



35th international **symposium** on ALS/MND

6 - 8 December 2024

Montreal

Canada

 (plus selected virtual content)

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

Co-hosts: ALS Society of Canada and ALS Society of Quebec



SLA QUEBEC **ALS**

First Announcement Call for Abstracts



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6-8 December 2024, Montreal, Canada

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 treatment 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

Francis Crick House
6 Summerhouse Road
Northampton, UK 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.alsmndalliance.org

Co-hosts for the Symposium:

ALS Canada

393 University Avenue, Suite 1701
Toronto, ON, Canada M5G 1E6
Tel: (+) 1 416 497 2267
Email: research@als.ca
Website: www.als.ca

ALS Society of Quebec

5415 Pare suite 200
Mount-Royal
Quebec, Canada H4P 1P7
Tel: (1) 1 514 725 2653
Email: info@sla-quebec.ca
Website: www.als-quebec.ca

Symposium Programme Committee:

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

Jennifer Bedford

Nick Cole

Brian Dickie

Heather Durham

Angela Genge

Caroline Ingre

Sanjay Kalra

Janice Robertson

David Taylor

Welcome

to the 35th International Symposium on ALS/MND

We look forward to welcoming you to Canada and the beautiful city of Montreal this December, for the 35th International Symposium on ALS/MND.

About the Symposium

The International Symposium encompasses innovation, education and collaboration, as we come together to update our colleagues from across the world on the latest developments in the diagnosis, treatment and management of ALS/MND. This meeting allows researchers to share the latest information on disease pathology, clinical practice, and potential therapeutic targets to a global audience. The Symposium also offers the unique opportunity for researchers to appreciate the reality of the disease from the perspective of the people living with MND, medical practitioners and caregivers, to feel part of the whole MND community.

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. We will continue to showcase a mix between biomedical research and clinical science, therapy development and clinical management, through dedicated oral presentations and poster sessions (which have always been a Symposium highlight). We would encourage as many members of the ALS/MND research and clinical/care communities to join us in-person, but to remain inclusive to those unable to travel (particularly people living with ALS/MND), we are once again offering a virtual option. The virtual option will consist of access to one of the three daily sessions which run in parallel, streamed live and access to all sessions available as recordings.

We look forward to welcoming you

We hope the Symposium will once again motivate you to make a difference in the work you do for people living with ALS/MND. Last year's closing session inspired the global audience as they witnessed Anna, a FUS-ALS carrier who had severe motor deterioration, walk across the stage alongside Dr Neil Schneider as he collected the Lalji Family ALS Award for innovative healing. Anna's story is empowering, and to spark more success stories, we urge researchers, clinicians and healthcare professionals to do even more in their fight to treat ALS/MND. It is our hope that this year's meeting will once again stimulate new ideas, partnerships and collaborations that will lead to effective treatments for ALS/MND.

We hope you will join us in Montreal, as we strive for a world free from ALS/MND.

Research Development Team
MND Association

Themes

Proposed platform session themes include:

Biomedical

Disease models
Single cell and organelle analyses
Immune and inflammatory processes
Axonal and synaptic pathology
Genetics and genomics
Bioinformatics and machine learning
Neurovascular changes
Proteostasis and proteotoxicity
RNA biology

Clinical

Care practice and access to treatments
Respiratory and nutritional management
Assistive technology and telemedicine
Detection and early diagnosis
Surrogate markers and clinical endpoints
Clinical trials and trial design
The ALS-FTD continuum
Autonomy and decision-making
Heterogeneity and stratification

Registration

Registration for in-person attendance will be available from 7 May and registration for those who wish to attend virtually (access the selected live and recorded content only) will be available from 14 September 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.

Registration fees (payable in £ Sterling)

In-person (includes access to on-demand content)

Early Bird registration (7 May to 13 September)	£425.00
Standard registration (14 September to 15 October)	£525.00
Late registration (16 October to 22 November)	£625.00
Last minute and onsite registration (23 November onwards)	£850.00

Virtual (includes access to selected live streamed sessions and all sessions on-demand post-event)

Virtual registration (14 September onwards)	£100.00
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Call for Abstracts

Summary of Conditions of Acceptance

Montreal, Canada, 6-8 December 2024

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 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 two abstracts per presenting author.

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.

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

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 no later than 13 September 2024. 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.

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.

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

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

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.

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).

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 7 May 2024. These must be read before an abstract is submitted. Queries should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org.

Abstract submission system opens: 7 May 2024

Deadline for abstract submission: 11 July 2024

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 three years of the abstract submission deadline.

The initial stage of judging will be based on the abstracts, as submitted by the abstract submission deadline of 11 July 2024. 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.symposium.mndassociation.org/for-presenters/poster-prize) following the opening of the submission system in May 2024.

Welcome to Montreal



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The second largest French-speaking city in the world after Paris, Montreal (in the Canadian province of Quebec) is known for its superb cuisine, vibrant nightlife, colourful festivals and cultural diversity. It has a rich colonial history and is a cosmopolitan hub of international trade. Montreal's landmarks, museums, nightclubs, parks, shopping districts and galleries provide ample opportunities for exploration and entertainment.

Old Montreal is one of the most popular spots in the city, and with good reason. It is a cobblestoned district lined with boutiques, galleries and restaurants, all housed among well-preserved buildings dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, such as the Notre-Dame Basilica and Château Ramezay. Other neighbourhoods worth exploring include the Plateau, Mile End, Little Italy and Griffintown and a trip to Mount-Royal Park, one of the city's largest green spaces, will reward the visitor with stunning views.

There are numerous museums and galleries in Montreal, some of which are dedicated to Canadian history and art. Carefully curated temporary and permanent exhibitions make venues like the Pointe-à-Callière Museum of Archaeology and History and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts well worth a visit.

Montreal is a haven for great shopping. With a huge selection of high-end and vintage boutiques, department stores, flea markets and shopping malls, there are options to suit all tastes and budgets. With over 32 kilometres of underground

tunnels connecting office towers, hotels, universities and more, it is possible to shop for weeks without ever seeing the light of day!

Known to have one of the most varied selections of cuisine in North America, Montreal offers a fantastic choice of dining options. From five-star restaurants and carefully prepared dishes from around the world to legendary local diners and street-side food trucks, Montreal offers one-of-a-kind experiences for all tastes. Be sure to try poutine, a delicious Canadian dish that originated in the Quebec province.

Montreal is world-famous for its nightlife, offering a vast array of bars and clubs to choose from (many of which play host to sporting events). However, there is much more to nightlife in Montreal: as one of the largest cities in Canada, there are plenty of well-known performers (and not-so-well-known musicians) playing around the city on any given night. In winter, you can also catch a game of ice hockey when the local team, the Montreal Canadiens, plays at The Bell Centre.

For those wishing to extend their stay in Canada and maybe explore a little further afield, there's a great choice of places to visit. Sports fans might like to go skiing or dogsledding at Tremblant while city lovers can visit Ottawa or Quebec City, both within easy reach of Montreal on public transport.

Montreal is an exhilarating, multi-cultural city that has much to offer its visitors.

Discover the delights of Montreal by visiting the following websites:
www.mtl.org • www.montrealvisitorsguide.com



General information

The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

Symposium Venue

Palais des Congrès de Montréal
1001 Place Jean-Paul-Riopelle
Montreal-Quebec, H2Z 1H5
Canada



Travel

An international destination of choice, Montreal is easily accessed by land, water and air. **Palais des Congrès de Montréal** is a 25/30-minute drive from Montreal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL), which offers over 150 world destinations served by 30 carriers. Inbound travellers will find everything they need upon arrival, including tourist information and various options for making their way to the heart of the city: car rentals and taxi services, as well as airport shuttles. The 747 Express bus operates 24/7/365, costs \$11 and will get you to the nearest stop to the Palais des Congrès (De Bleury/Viger or Station Place-D'Armes (Saint-Urbain/Viger) in around 40 minutes. If you take a taxi, a trip downtown will cost you a flat rate of \$41, tip not included.

The VIA Rail network connects many major cities to Montreal and is by far the easiest way to access downtown. Central Station also gives you access to taxis, car sharing, bus, BIXI bike rentals and the Underground Pedestrian Network. If you are travelling from the United States, the Amtrak trains offer daily departures from many American cities to downtown Montreal.

Public transport and taxi are both convenient and affordable ways to get around Montreal. The metro system is clean, safe and fast and the public transit network is relatively simple, with just four lines connecting the downtown centre to major tourist sites, bus stops and train stations. The metro operates daily from 05.30am to 01.00am (01.30am on Saturdays), with an average wait time between trains of eight minutes (three minutes during rush hour).

Entry Requirements

To check entry requirements for Canada and to determine if you need to apply for a visa before you travel, visit www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/entry-requirements-country.

Accommodation

Accommodation information will be available on our website at www.symposium.mndassociation.org/accommodation.

Follow Symposium deadlines and news on Twitter/X using: **#alsmndsymp @mndresearch**