



36th International **Symposium** on ALS/MND

5-7 December 2025

San Diego, USA

(plus selected virtual content)

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

ALS
ASSOCIATION

Host: The ALS Association

First announcement Call for abstracts

36th International **Symposium** on ALS/MND

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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, NN3 6BJ, UK
Tel: (+) 44 1604 250505
Email: symposium@mndassociation.org
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
www.alsmndalliance.org

Host for the Symposium:

ALS Association
1300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22209, USA
Tel: 1 800 782 4747
Email: alsinfo@als.org
www.als.org

Symposium Programme Committee:

Ammar Al-Chalabi (*Chair, Programme Committee*)
Jennifer Bedford
Nick Cole
Kuldip Dave
Brian Dickie
Caroline Ingre
Albert La Spada
Catherine Lomen-Hoerth
John Ravits
David Taylor

Welcome

We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful city of San Diego this December, for the 36th International Symposium on ALS/MND.

About the Symposium

The International Symposium encompasses innovation, education and collaboration, as researchers and healthcare professionals come together to update 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, will consider 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 a selection of live-streamed sessions, and access to all session recordings post-event (until early March, 2026).

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 showcased how the latest advancements in technology could help to improve quality of life for people with ALS/MND. The BrainGate Consortium Team was presented with the International Healey Award for Innovation in ALS for their work on Brain Computer Interface (BCI) technology. The development of this technology offers the opportunity to restore communication, mobility and independence in people living with ALS/MND. This research illustrates hope for the future and the impact research can have on the lives of people with ALS/MND.

We hope that this year's meeting will offer inspiration and the opportunity to stimulate new ideas, partnerships and collaborations that will lead to further advances in 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
- Senescence
- Genetics and epigenetics
- Therapeutic strategies
- Proteostasis and proteotoxicity
- RNA biology

Clinical

- Multidisciplinary care
- Respiratory and nutritional management
- Assistive technology
- Prodromal symptoms and early diagnosis
- Biomarkers and clinical endpoints
- Clinical trials and trial design
- ALS-FTD and non-motor symptoms
- Motor neuron circuitry and physiology
- Heterogeneity and stratification

Registration

Registration for in-person attendance will be available from 6 May and registration for those who wish to attend virtually (access the selected live and recorded content only) will be available from 6 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

In-person (includes access to on-demand content)	Non-Industry	Industry
Early-bird registration (until 5 September)	£450	£600
Standard registration (6 September to 14 October)	£575	£800
Late registration (15 October to 24 November)	£700	£1000
Last-minute and onsite registration (25 November onwards)	£850	£1200
Virtual (includes access to selected live streamed sessions and on-demand content)		
Virtual registration (6 September onwards)	£120.00	

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 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 San Diego, USA and be present for their assigned session.

The presenting author is not required to fully register for the Symposium before submitting an abstract. **However, formal acceptance of an abstract is conditional upon payment of the appropriate registration fee no later than 5 September 2025.** Failure to pay the registration fee by this date will result in withdrawal of the abstract.

Abstract submission system opens: 6 May 2025
Deadline for abstract submission: 10 July 2025

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). The deadline for withdrawing an abstract is 5 September. Abstracts withdrawn after this date will still be published in the journal supplement.

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 May 2025. These must be read before an abstract is submitted. Queries should be sent to abstracts@mndassociation.org.

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 10 July 2025. 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 abstract submission system in May 2025.

Welcome to San Diego



San Diego, a waterfront city in California, USA, has so much to offer. If the almost year-round sunshine is not enough, it has first-class restaurants, beautiful vistas, neighbourhoods steeped in history and culture, and a centrally located urban park. Whatever you choose to do during your free time in this vibrant city, San Diego will not disappoint.

As well as attractions such as Sea World, the USS Midway Museum and the world-famous zoo, San Diego has many neighbourhoods that are worth visiting. From the vibrant Gaslamp District and East Village to stunning coastal communities such as La Jolla and Pacific Beach, exploring the city and its surroundings makes for a rich and diverse experience. The 36th International Symposium on ALS/MND will take place in Coronado; located on a peninsula between San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean, its historic and characterful downtown area and stunning beaches are also worth exploring.

San Diego's rich cultural diversity provides a wide variety of cuisines for its visitors to sample in its many restaurants and eateries: order spaghetti and meatballs in Little Italy, try authentic Mexican tacos or burritos in the Old Town or indulge in some high-end seafood at the Marina district. Try one of the many local craft beers or wines with your meal, or go straight to the source with a brewery or vineyard tour.

For those who love exploring the great outdoors, San Diego has unlimited recreational opportunities. With perfect weather and 70 miles of pristine coastline, there are plenty of opportunities to catch some sunshine and fresh air while you are in town and a wide range of activities to enjoy, such as swimming, hiking, jogging and boating.

Whether you prefer relaxation or adventure, San Diego has everything you need for an unforgettable visit!

Discover the delights of San Diego by visiting these websites:

www.sandiego.org www.sandiegovisit.org

General information

The Symposium proceedings will be in English.

Symposium venue

Loews Coronado Bay Resort
4000 Coronado Bay Road
Coronado, 92118, USA



Travel information

Getting to San Diego

An international destination of choice, San Diego is easily accessed by land, water and air. The Loews Coronado Bay Resort is a 20 to 25-minute drive from San Diego International Airport (SAN), which offers over 80 world destinations served by 20 carriers. Inbound travellers will find everything they need on arrival, including tourist information and various options for onward travel.

Onward travel from the airport

There are several options for onward travel from the airport, including:

- taxi (the average cost is around \$40, and Lyft/Uber are also well established in San Diego);
- bus (there is wheelchair accessible route into the city that picks up from both terminals 1 and 2);
- car rental.

Getting around San Diego

As well as taxis and buses, there is a regular ferry service that runs from Coronado (where the Symposium is taking place) to the city's Broadway Pier. Loews Coronado Bay Resort runs a regular shuttle service to downtown Coronado; other evening transport options to and from downtown Coronado are currently being explored by the meeting organisers.

Entry requirements

To check entry requirements for the USA and to determine if you need to apply for a visa before you travel, visit www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html and www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html.

Important: We would encourage delegates to submit any necessary visa applications as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment. For more information or guidance email symposium@mndassociation.org.

Accommodation

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

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