



National MND Conference 2026



9–11 September 2026



Adelaide Convention Centre



PROGRAM



**Business
Events
Adelaide**



National MND Conference 2026

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WEDNESDAY

5pm – 7pm

Welcome Reception and Official Opening | Hall M - N

Andrew Danson, MNDA National Chair

THURSDAY

Opening Plenary | Hall L

Chair: Clare Sullivan

9am	Welcome to Country	
9:10am	Day 1 – Opening Remarks and Chairperson's Address	Andrew Danson
9:15am	Keynote – Hon Blair Boyer MP	Hon Blair Boyer MP
9:30am	Keynote – Dr Norman Swan AM	Dr Norman Swan AM

10:30am – 11am
Morning Tea – Day 1

Hall M - N

Lived-experience led research methods | Hall L

Chairs: Josie Caruso & Liam O'Meara

11:03am	The values and preferences of People Living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND): A qualitative evidence synthesis	Yogeeta Viswanath Harish
11:10am	Exploring the impact of MND on sleep: a qualitative exploration of the perspectives of people living with MND and carers	Nicole Grivell
11:17am	Using co-design to improve care for cognitive and behavioural changes in motor neurone disease	Dr Rebecca Francis
11:24am	The evolution of a "stakeholder advisory group" to drive research about non invasive ventilation in motor neurone disease in Australia	Associate Professor Marnie Graco & Jean Downton

Molecular Mechanisms 1 | Riverbank 7-8

Chairs: Leanne Davis & Chris Symonds

11:03am	Mapping genetic risk factors for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis onto myeloid lineage immune cells reveals novel disease mechanisms and putative therapeutic targets	Dr William Reay
11:10am	Using a Combination of Patient iPSC-Derived Myelinating Organoids and Chimeric Mice to Characterise Myelin Involvement in MND	Dr Samantha Barton
11:17am	Tackling ubiquitin dyshomeostasis in Motor Neuron Disease	Prof Heath Ecroyd
11:24am	Thermogenesis and weight loss in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: a hypothesis-driven observational study using axillary body temperature	Dr Ryutaro Nakamura
11:31am	Spatial Metabolite Imaging of the Spinal Cord and Single Motor Neurons in SOD1G93A mice	Dr Jeremy Lum



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9–11 September 2026
Adelaide Convention Centre



Exploring inequities and improving access | Hall L

Chairs: Josie Caruso & Liam O'Meara

11:41am	Evidence to Practice: A case study of the development of a dissemination and implementation plan for Australia's MND care guideline	Dr Sophiya Dulal & Dr Cindy Stern
11:48am	Improving health equity in MND through health literacy and multilingual information delivery	Barb Corapi
11:55am	'Feeling my way in the dark': National evidence on MND care inequities and co-designed solutions to bridge health equity gaps	Dr Karen Hutchinson
12:02pm	Improving access to genomic care in MND; A collaborative genetic counselling model	Nikki Gelfand & MJo Whitehouse
12:09pm	A National Picture of MND Specialist Clinics: Variation, Models, and System Gaps	Dr Karen Hutchinson
12:16pm	"It takes a special kind of person": Experiences of motor neurone disease care coordinator roles within Australia's healthcare system	Dr Zoi Triandafilidis

Therapeutic development: discovery to clinical trials | Riverbank 7-8

Chairs: Leanne Davis & Chris Symonds

11:48am	Supraphysiological copper accumulation and biochemical dysregulation in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis patients treated with CuATSM	Dr Benjamin Trist
11:55am	Harnessing Cold Stress Pathways as a Therapeutic Strategy in ALS	Dr Rachel Atkinson
12:02pm	Targeting Proteostasis in ALS: Establishing Proof-of-Concept for NUZ-001 Across Preclinical and Phase 1b Data	Dr Martin Engel
12:09pm	The Trial Effect: Clinical Trial Participation and Survival Outcomes in Motor Neurone Disease	Dr Hannah Timmins
12:16pm	EVALUATION OF NUN-004, A NOVEL ENGINEERED EPHRIN ANTAGONIST, IN HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS AND PATIENTS WITH ALS: A PHASE I/IB, OPEN-LABEL, ESCALATING DOSE AND EXTENDED ACCESS STUDY	Dr Mike Gerometta

12:30am – 1:15pm Lunch – Day 1

Hall M - N

12:30pm – 1:15pm Lunch – Lived Experience Mingle

Room L2

Approaching end of life | Hall L

Chairs: Nicole Grivell & Stacey Thorpe

1:20pm	The First 8 Hours in a Day, From the Diary of an MND Carer	Helen O'Neill
1:27pm	Motor Neurone Disease, voluntary assisted dying and organ donation, a case presentation	Lois Quick
1:34pm	National Forum on end-of-life (EOL) care for people living with MND: Co-designing an integrated model of care centred on family carer experience	Dr Karen Hutchinson



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Adelaide Convention Centre



Measuring change: understanding disease onset and progression: biomarkers and neuroimaging | Riverbank 7-8

Chairs: Maeve Egan & Giulia Valente

1:20pm	A Hidden Burden: Elevated Motor Neuron Disease Incidence and Bulbar-Onset Disease in Rural Western NSW	Dr Amanda Wright
1:27pm	Beyond NfL: longitudinal plasma proteome profiling reveals coordinated network signatures of MND onset and progression	A/Prof Albert Lee
1:34pm	Longitudinal changes in urinary p75ECD levels in pre-symptomatic And early MND – a premodiALS study	A/Prof Mary-Louise Rogers
1:41pm	Multi-dimensional assessment of corticospinal white-matter integrity reflects disease progression in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	Dr Hannes Almgren

Improving symptom management | Hall L

Chairs: Nicole Grivell & Stacey Thorpe

1:51pm	A multifaceted approach to supporting people living with Motor Neurone Disease manage saliva symptoms	Dr Shana Taubert
1:58pm	Co designing solutions to improve uptake of non invasive ventilation in motor neurone disease (CoNIV-MND)	Kylie Russo
2:05pm	The prevalence and management of constipation in Australians with MND	Dr Barry Werth
2:12pm	The Australian Motor Neurone Disease Dietetics Network: A collective voice	Emily Farrugia
2:19pm	A prospective study of Gastrostomy feeding in Motor Neuron Disease in a state-wide clinic at Flinders Medical Centre, South Australia	Elizabeth Kapur

Assistive technology | Riverbank 7-8

Chairs: Maeve Egan & Giulia Valente

2:05pm	Wearable robotic ankle exoskeletons improve walking performance efficiency, and stability in Motor Neurone Disease	Dr Taylor Dick
2:12pm	Saying more with less: How Tasmanians with MND inspired a new communication system	Daniel Hommel
2:19pm	Smart Tech, Real Impact: Leveraging Apple Accessibility features for MND	Jess Cook
2:26pm	ROBOTIC EXOSKELETONS IMPROVE ANKLE MECHANICS IN MOTOR NEURON DISEASE	Dr James Williamson

2:40pm – 2:45pm	Biogen	Hall L	Fiona Tigar
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2:45pm – 3:15pm	Afternoon Tea – Day 1	Hall M - N
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9-11 September 2026
Adelaide Convention Centre



Closing Plenary | Hall L

Chair: Paige Higgins & Mary-Jane Stolp

- 3:15pm Neurizon
- 3:30pm Choose Happiness
- 3:45pm Unity and collaboration: MND care network

Dr Martin Engel
Peter Chambers
Facilitator: Clare Sullivan
Maeve Egan, Samantha Mead,
Liam O'Meara, Mary-Jane
Stolp, Chris Symonds, Stacey
Thorpe

No Bell Prize | Hall L

Facilitator: Jane Simpson

4:30pm – 5:00pm

- The body's response to inflammation in motor neurone disease: a way to identify new treatments? Dr Liam Koehn
- Blood lactate as a biomarker of survival and weight loss in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis Dr Ryutaro Nakamura
- Targeting the neuromuscular interface for ALS treatment A/Prof Benjamin Parker
- Impaired Glycolysis Drives DNA Repair Defects and Enhanced DNA Damage in TDP-43 Mutant Neuronal Cell Models of ALS Dr Thais Sobanski

6:30pm – 11:00pm MND and MNDSA Gala Dinner SkyCity Ballroom, North Terrace, Adelaide



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FRIDAY

8:15am – 8:45am Official launch of the co-designed educational video series about non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in MND **Room L2**
Facilitator: Associate Professor Marnie Graco

Plenary | Hall L

9am	Day 2 - Opening Remarks	Chair: Clare Sullivan Clare Sullivan
9:05am	Launch of Community Forum	Morag Millington Louise Henry
9:15am	MNDA's National Data Strategy: ensuring everyone affected by MND counts	A/Prof Susan Hoskins
9:30am	Keynote - Hon Mark Butler MP	Hon Mark Butler MP
10:00am	Lived Experience Panel - The emotional rollercoaster of MND	Facilitator: Jane Simpson Juile Christen, Janet Hough, Bevin Scholz, Joseph Skewes, Zoe Wright

10:45am – 11:15am **Morning Tea – Day 2** **Hall M - N**

10:45am – 11:15am **Poster Presentations - Early Career Researchers** **Hall M - N**

Supporting choice, autonomy and person-centred care | Hall L

Chairs: Rob Ferrari & Jasmine Shippey

11:18am	Supporting Gastrostomy Decision-Making in Motor Neurone Disease (MND): An Australian Survey of Healthcare Professionals' Beliefs, Practices, and Needs	Dr Sarah El-Wahsh
11:25am	Rethinking employment support in motor neurone disease	Victoria Tull
11:32am	Decision-making about respiratory support options for people living with MND	Dr Cindy Stern
11:39am	Empowering people with the information to get what they need	Helen Skeat

Molecular Mechanisms TPD-43 | Riverbank 7-8

Chairs: A/Prof David Schultz & Prof Adam Walker

11:18am	Disruption of SFPQ promotes aberrant TDP 43 transcriptional regulation, expression and localisation	Dr Alison Hogan
11:25am	CRISPR activation and inhibition array screen identifies proteostasis components that inhibit and promote TDP-43, SOD1, and FUS aggregation	Ms Keeley Lennon
11:32am	Hidden in plain sight: Revealing the Cryptoproteome in TDP-43 nuclear deficiency	Flora Cheng
11:39am	ALS/FTD-associated TDP-43 mutations promote fragility of genes governing excitatory neurotransmission via topoisomerase II β impairment	Dr Anna Konopka



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Care experience and service delivery | Hall L

Chairs: Rob Ferrari & Jasmine Shippey

11:55am	Rethinking Capacity Building for Carers of People with Motor Neurone Disease: A Responsive and Inclusive Approach	Andrea Salmon
12:02pm	Research Survey Results: Lived Experience of Receiving a Motor Neurone Disease Diagnosis.	Jane Simpson
12:09pm	Rural Caring and Motor Neurone Disease: A Lived Experience Perspective on Gaps in Support and Access	Andrea Tutton-Clyne
12:16pm	Understanding Burden in People Living with Motor Neurone Disease: Findings from an Australian Mixed-Methods Study	Dr Sally Neville

Molecular Mechanisms 2 | Riverbank 7-8

Chairs: A/Prof David Schultz & Prof Adam Walker

11:55am	Reconstructing extended pedigrees for gene discovery	Dr Lyndal Henden
12:02pm	Actin Cytoskeletal Dysregulation as a Convergent Pathogenic Mechanism in FUS and CCNF Models of ALS	Sara Assar Kashani
12:09pm	Restoring genomic integrity: Strategies to combat DNA damage in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Fabiha Farzana
12:16pm	Is epigenomic dysregulation driving motor neuron vulnerability in ALS?	A/Prof Cathy Blizzard

12:30pm – 1:15pm
Lunch – Day 2

Hall M - N

Closing Plenary | Hall L

Chair: Samantha Mead

1:15pm	Day 2 Closing Plenary - Opening Remarks	Samantha Mead
1:20pm	Choice, care and compassion at end of life	Facilitator: Andrew Danson Peter Alcroft & Andrew Denton
2:00pm	FightMND	
2:30pm	HESRI Guidelines - Professor Zachary Munn	Professor Zachary Munn
3:00pm	Research Awards	Professor David Adams & Dr Karen McConologue
3:15pm	Day 2 - Conference Closing Remarks	Clare Sullivan



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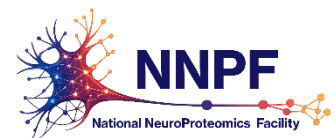
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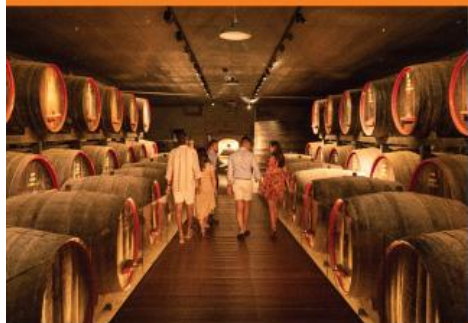
We trust you are enjoying your conference and all that Adelaide has to offer. This easily-walkable city includes hotels, innovation districts, universities and retail. It also includes an enviable variety of globally renowned restaurants and wine bars. Pre and post-touring world-famous regions of the Barossa and McLaren Vale are less than an hour away. Adelaide is a green and spacious city, yet it has large city infrastructure and technology to support any business event.

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