

'Ask the Experts'

Motor Neurone Disease NSW

Wednesday 5 August 2020

10.30am to 12 noon - it's live online!

Livestream event on

www.facebook.com/mndnsw

you don't even need a Facebook account to join on the day



Join us in asking the experts about MND and what's new in MND research. All you need to do is visit the MND NSW Facebook page at 10.30am. The link is www.facebook.com/mndnsw



Program

From 10.15 am	LOG IN - www.facebook.com/mndnsw
10.30	Welcome - Graham Opie, CEO Motor Neurone Disease NSW
10.35	The genetics of MND: What it means to me? - Ashley Crook and Rosie Fell
10.50	Question time
11am	An overview of Australian MND research - Dr Gethin Thomas
11.20	Question time
11.30	Research into the feasibility and effect of swallowing exercises and diet modifications for people living with MND - Professor Vicki Flood
11.45	Question time and panel returns to answer further questions
11.55	Closing address - Graham Opie

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Presenter biographies

Ashley Crook is a certified genetic counsellor at the MQ Health Neurology Clinic and Macquarie University Centre for MND Research. She has a Masters of Genetic Counselling. She is also currently a PhD student at the University of Technology Sydney. Through her PhD project, she is aiming to develop an improved model of care for genetic counselling of MND and frontotemporal dementia (FTD). She has been working with people living with MND, and their families since 2015

Rosie Fell is an associate Genetic Counsellor at MQ Health Neurology and the Macquarie University MND Research Centre. She has a Masters in Genetic Counselling. Within the clinic setting, she works directly with patients and their families obtaining detailed family history's where appropriate. She also works closely with the research team allowing them access to the clinical data for research participants.

Dr Gethin Thomas has over 20 years of experience as a biomedical researcher, publishing more than 65 papers in journals such as Nature Methods, Nature Genetics, PLoS Genetics, and Lancet Oncology. As a researcher, he secured close to \$4M in research funding from the NHMRC as well as government and philanthropic funding schemes. As a reviewer, he performed manuscript review for 15 journals and currently serves on grant review panels for the NHMRC and European Union Horizon 2020 Program. He has previously performed grant review duties for over 10 Australian and International funding bodies.

Over the last 10 years as a senior research manager, he has directed a University Research Office and Higher Degree by Research programs and served as an Associate Dean of Research. He has extensive experience of high-level research strategy as well as a deep understanding of the research funding system from the grant preparation, application and review process through to management of funded projects at both the researcher and institutional level.

He joined MND Australia 12 months ago as the Executive Director, Research. His core priorities for the near future involve maintaining grant funding through the COVID-19 crisis, building stronger national and international partnerships and implementing the new MND Australia strategy.

Professor Vicki Flood conjoint professor, University of Sydney and Westmead Hospital, Western Sydney Local Health District. Vicki has a background in nutrition science and dietetics, epidemiology and public health, and research areas include clinical trials to reduce chronic disease and neurodegenerative diseases. Recent research of Motor Neurone Disease has had a multidisciplinary focus, working with Professor Steve Vucic, and allied health clinicians and academics at Westmead Hospital, St Joseph's Hospital and the University of Sydney. Vicki has over 170 peer reviewed publications in the scientific literature and supervises several research students. Vicki is passionate about applying research into the clinical context and translating research into practice. She will present on a recent trial of swallowing exercises and diet intervention among people living with Motor Neurone Disease

Please join us to hear about what is new in MND research

You can also ask questions live online via facebook or

email us beforehand on now@mndnsw.asn.au or phone 1800 777 175