



Why there is a strong case to fund a Translational Research Institute for Motor Neurone Disease

- **The nature of motor neurone disease (MND)** - MND is a uniquely horrific disease where there are no effective treatments. One-third will die within a year, and two-thirds within two years of diagnosis. MND is not rare - it will kill 1 in 300 people or **200,000** of the current UK population.
- **Very limited Government funding to date** - Current government funding *targeted* at MND is consistently less than £5m a year, which is only about £900 per patient per year. The financial benefits/savings to the Government of meaningful treatments cannot be underestimated.
- **Life-saving treatments are within reach** - Research is now at a stage where scientists can turn lab discoveries into life-saving treatments. However, the current research funding system does not support this work. This is recognised in the Government's [Life Sciences Vision](#)¹ which sets out a need to improve translational science capabilities [pg 46-47].
- **A detailed 5 year plan towards treatment** – [Our 2021 UKGOV spending review proposal](#)² for a Translational Research Institute brings together leading scientists across five UK Universities. It is a detailed plan for bringing lab discoveries to an innovative trial platform, analysing findings, and involving pharmaceutical partners. It will cost £50m over 5 years.
- **Inward investment** - The pharmaceutical industry is now very interested in finding life-saving treatments for MND. A Translational Research Institute would provide a focus for investment. This stimulus funding will generate many 100s of £millions in investment from the pharmaceutical industry.
- **UK to become a world leader in MND and dementia research** - The UK faces an historic opportunity to become world leader in neurodegenerative research. Finding treatments for MND would open the way to treatments for dementia and Parkinson's. Without investment, any progress will likely be made instead in the USA or mainland Europe.

Now is the time to invest

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-sciences-vision>

² <https://www.mndassociation.org/app/uploads/2021/07/mndresearchinstitute-2021-spendingreviewsubmission-final.pdf>

#United2EndMND