

Macquarie Neurodegeneration Meeting

Conference Opening	
9:00 am -9:30 am	Registration
9:30 am – 9:35 am	<p>Welcome Remarks by Professor Julie Atkin Co-Director Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre Macquarie Medical School Macquarie University</p>
Session 1	Chairs – Professor Ian Blair & Dr Alison Hogan
9:35 am – 10:05 am	<p>Prof Gareth Miles Assistant Vice Principal, Dean of Science and Professor of Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK.</p> <p><i>Investigating the role of astrocytes in the pathophysiology of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis</i> (30 min)</p>
10:05 am- 10:20 am	<p>Dr Sina Shadfar Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>Restoring Genomic Integrity: A Novel Strategy Against DNA Damage and Age-Related Diseases</i> (15 min)</p>
10:20 am -10:35 am	<p>Dr Nirma Perera (zoom) Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne</p> <p><i>A Blood-Based Biomarker for Autophagy - the Cell's Waste Clearance and Recycling Pathway</i> (15 min)</p>
10:35 pm -10:50 pm	<p>Dr Magdalena Przybyla Dementia Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>Tau spreading in Alzheimer's disease models is facilitated by the amyloid-β precursor protein</i> (15 min)</p>
Break	
10:50 am - 11:20 am	Join us for morning, trade display and posters.

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Session 2		Chairs – Professor Gareth Miles & Dr Grant Richter	
11:20am – 11:50pm	Professor Bradley Turner Head of the Motor Neuron Disease Group and Research Lead of the Brain Health and Repair Mission. The Florey Institute, University of Melbourne	<i>Harnessing patient iPSCs as a drug screening platform for sporadic ALS</i> (30 min)	
11:50am – 12:05pm	Dr Rossana Rosa Porto School of Medicine, Western Sydney University	<i>Could heat therapy be utilised as a novel treatment for Alzheimer’s disease? Insights from a pilot study in mice.</i> (15 min)	
12:05pm – 12:20pm	Dr Rose Chesworth Western Sydney University	<i>Combining tauopathy and neuroinflammation exacerbates spatial learning impairments in a new double transgenic mouse model for Alzheimer’s disease</i> (15 min)	
12:20pm – 12:35pm	Dr Sarah El-Wahsh and Ms Katrina Byrne Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney	<i>Speech Pathologists’ confidence levels and professional development needs in motor neurone disease (MND): An Australian Survey</i> (15 min)	
Lunch			
12:35 pm – 1:50 pm	Lunch, Poster Session and Trade Displays		

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Session 3		Chairs – Professor Bradley Turner & Dr Sonam Parakh	
1:50 pm – 2:20 pm	Professor Simon Lewis Consultant Neurologist, an NHMRC Leadership Fellow and Professor of Cognitive Neurology. Macquarie Medical School, Macquarie University	<i>Parkinson's Disease - Where are we now?</i> (30 min)	
2:20 pm – 2:35 pm	Dr Kathryn Laloli NeuRA	<i>Clinical Diagnostic Accuracy in the Sydney Brain Bank</i> (15 min)	
2:35 pm – 2:50 pm	Associate Professor Cath Suter Sydney Local Health District	<i>Spatially resolved transcriptomics of human cortex reveals unique disease signatures and potential biomarkers for chronic traumatic encephalopathy</i> (15 min)	
2:50 pm – 3:20 pm	Prof Kim Hemsley (zoom) Head, Childhood Dementia Research Group Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University	<i>Children get dementia too - and they urgently need treatment options!</i> (30 min)	
Break			
3:20 pm – 3:55 pm	Please join us in the foyer for afternoon tea, posters and trade displays		
Session 4		Chairs - Professor Julie Atkin & Dr Shu Yang	
3:55 pm – 4:25 pm	Professor Roger Chung Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic Health Strategy, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Science Group Leader, Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre, Macquarie University	<i>Developing novel AAV gene therapies for ALS</i> (30 min)	

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4:25 pm – 4:30 pm	<p>Dr Andrew Affleck RPA Hospital, Sydney Local Health District</p> <p><i>Chronic traumatic encephalopathy and other neurodegenerative comorbidities seen in the Australian Sports Brain Bank</i> (5 min)</p>
4:30 pm – 4:35 pm	<p>Dr Hannah Suddull Dementia Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>How Does the 3' UTR Sequence of mRNA Regulate Tau Expression?</i> (5 min)</p>
4:35 pm – 4:40 pm	<p>Ms Sushmitha Somanahalli Purushotham School of Medicine, Western Sydney University</p> <p><i>Evaluation of anti-inflammatory molecule in restoring K⁺ homeostasis during neurodegeneration</i> (5 min)</p>
4:40 pm – 4:45 pm	<p>Miss Anastasiya Potapenko Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>The contribution of ataxin-3's deubiquitinase function to the pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases including Machado-Joseph disease</i> (5 min)</p>
4:45 pm – 4:50 pm	<p>Ms Sara Assar Kashani Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>Actin dysregulation in transgenic FUS animal models and its novel isoform EC-FUS</i> (5 min)</p>
4:50 pm – 4:55 pm	<p>Miss Vanessa Alexandre da Silva (zoom) Federal University of São Carlos (Brazil), Western Sydney University</p> <p><i>Exploratory analysis of ADAM10 isoforms levels and activity in neuron-like cell fractions.</i> (5 min)</p>

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4:55 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Dr Ignacio Simo Motor Neuron Disease Research Centre, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>Mitochondrial dysfunction as a cause of MJD</i> (5min)</p>
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<p>Dr Jenna Gregory (via Zoom) Senior Clinical Lecturer & Consultant Pathologist & Clinical Lead NHS Grampian Tissue Biorepository Institute of Medical Sciences School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition University of Aberdeen</p> <p><i>Presymptomatic pathological TDP-43 aggregation is a common feature in peripheral, non-central nervous system tissues in people with ALS.</i> (30 min)</p>
Close of Presentations	
5:30 pm – 5:35 pm	<p>Closing remarks by Professor Roger Chung Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic Health Strategy Faculty of Medicine, Health & Human Science Macquarie University</p>
5:35 pm – 5:45 pm	<p>Prize Presentation</p>