

A Tribute to Euan MacDonald

8th-9th October 2025, John McIntyre Centre, Edinburgh

Weds 8th October

09.00-10.00	Registration and coffee	
	Chair: Prof Siddharthan Chandran	
10.00	Prof Siddharthan Chandran, MacDonald Professor of Neurology; Director of the Euan MacDonald Centre and UK Dementia Research Institute	Welcome
10.10	Prof Richard Ribchester, Emeritus Professor of Cellular Neuroscience, University of Edinburgh	A brief history of EMC time: from beginnings to big bang
10.20	Prof Sabine Liebscher, Director, Institute of Systems Neuroscience, Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria	The complexity of circuit dysfunction: reframing ALS/FTD pathophysiology
10.50	Prof Tom Gillingwater, Professor of Anatomy, University of Edinburgh	Targeting bioenergetic pathways in motor neuron disease
11.20-11.40	Refreshment break	
	Chair: Prof Gareth Miles	
11.40	Dr Matthew Livesey, Senior Lecturer, Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN), University of Sheffield	Targeting network inhibition for therapeutic rescue in MND
12.10	Early-career researcher flashtalks	
	Alyssa Corbett, Euan MacDonald Centre PhD student, University of St Andrews	Communication between neurons and astrocytes is dysfunctional in presymptomatic ALS mice
	Hannah Crick, Euan MacDonald Centre PhD student, University of Edinburgh	A novel mouse model of X-linked spinal muscular atrophy offers a platform for preclinical development of UBA1 targeting therapeutics
	Dr Johnny Tam, MRC Clinical PhD Fellow, University of Edinburgh	Deep learning digital speech biomarkers of dysarthria in MND
	Dr Áine Heffernan, Postdoctoral Research Assistant, University of Edinburgh	Neuronal TDP-43 pathology drives alterations in oligodendrocyte lineage dynamics in ALS
12.40	Dr Owen Gwydion James, Wellcome Early Career Research Fellow, UK Dementia Research Institute at King's College London	Investigating the role of disease modifiers for protein-RNA pathogenesis in ALS
13.10-14.10	Lunch and posters; Poster presentations #1-11, 13.40-14.10	
14.10-17.00	Celebrating Euan's Legacy public session – see separate programme Poster presentations #12-22, 15.20-16.00	
17.00-18.30	Wine reception	

Thurs 9th October

08.00-09.00 Coffee

Chair: Dr Bhuvaneish Selvaraj Thangaraj

09.00	Prof Christopher E Shaw, Professor of Neurology and Neurogenetics, King's College London & University of Auckland, New Zealand	Gene therapy for ALS and FTD: are we there yet?
-------	--	---

09.30	Dr Andrea Serio, Reader in Neural Tissue Engineering, King's College London; Principal Investigator, UK DRI; Group Leader, The Francis Crick Institute	Engineering connections: combining stem cells, neurobiology & bioengineering to understand human neurodegenerative diseases
-------	--	---

10.00 **Emerging leaders**

	Dr Matthew Broadhead, Postdoctoral Researcher/Co-Principal Investigator, University of St Andrews	Synaptic diversity and vulnerability in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
--	---	---

	Dr Helena Chaytow, Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh	The CCL2-CCR2 axis drives neuromuscular denervation in ALS
--	---	--

	Dr Caroline McHutchison, Lecturer in Psychology, University of Stirling	Mild cognitive impairment in presymptomatic MND
--	---	---

	Dr Maria Stavrou, Senior Clinical Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh	Astrocytes as drivers of axonal transport in ALS
--	--	--

11.00-11.30 Refreshment break; poster presentations #23-33

Chair: Dr Chris Sibley

11.30	Prof Sharon Abrahams, Professor of Neuropsychology, University of Edinburgh	Cognitive assessment in MND: why and how?
-------	---	---

12.00 **Early-career researcher flashtalks**

	Dr Laura Comley, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh	Early loss of intramuscular motor axons limits capacity for recovery following Smn up-regulating therapy in a mouse model of SMA
--	--	--

	Dr Shreya Parthadas Sharma, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh	Mechanisms of glutamate-mediated excitotoxicity in ALS
--	---	--

	Dr Daniel Jutzi, Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Edinburgh	The structured RNA-binding domains and condensation capacity of FUS shape its RNA-binding landscape and function
--	---	--

12.30	Prof Mahesh (Max) Parmar, Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, Director MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL and Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology, University College London	Improving health by improving trials
-------	--	--------------------------------------

13.00	Prof Siddharthan Chandran, MacDonald Professor of Neurology; Director of the Euan MacDonald Centre and UK Dementia Research Institute	Poster prizes and close
-------	---	-------------------------

13.15 'Grab and go' lunch

Thank you to
our sponsors:

