



THE UNIVERSITY  
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Transcription of video audio: Training the Next Generation of MND Researchers

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Hi everyone. My name is Irene and I am the latest PhD student to join the Euan MacDonald Centre back in September 2025.

The labs I've joined the Carragher, the Chandran, and the Selveraj lab space in Edinburgh.

The project that I'm working on is trying to find drugs that are capable of reversing the RNA dysfunction commonly associated with many neurodegenerative diseases, specifically looking at those affected with TDP 43, such as ALS.

During my first six months of the PHD, I've had amazing opportunities. I've been able to go to incredible conferences and hear from experts from all over the world. I've also been able to present to them some of my work and hear some feedback and grow from it.

I've gotten the wonderful opportunity to meet so many of you both through patient and public engagement opportunities, some of which include volunteering at the Euan MacDonald symposium which happened last year, volunteering at the Biggar Science Festival, as well as starting to meet some of you through joining the team that hosts on lab tours for patients and carers at the labs next to the Anne Rowling Clinic in Edinburgh.

During these months, one of the biggest challenges, but most enriching things that I've been able to experience, is a growing awareness of how much do I know? how much is there to know? and how much does one need to know before they can do a great job or whatever they set out to do? This is because the field of science is so incredibly big and ever expanding. They need to be very fine tuned for these types of balances.

I think that's everything that I can tell you for now, and I am very excited for the rest of these years.

Thank you for listening, and I hope you have a great day.

See you!