

# Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Research Clinic

## **WHAT IS THE MND RESEARCH CLINIC**

The MND Research Clinic is conducted within the Neurology Department, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital on a regular basis under A/Prof Rob Henderson. The Research Clinic provides an opportunity for people with MND to meet Clinicians and Researchers to discuss current MND research projects. The Research Clinic is voluntary and for people who are interested in participating in or seeking further information about research into MND. It does not replace your routine MND Clinic where you have your regular clinical appointments.

## **WHO ARE WE?**

We are a collaborative team of doctors, nurses, research scientists and other allied health professionals. We collaborate nationally and internationally with other groups conducting MND research.

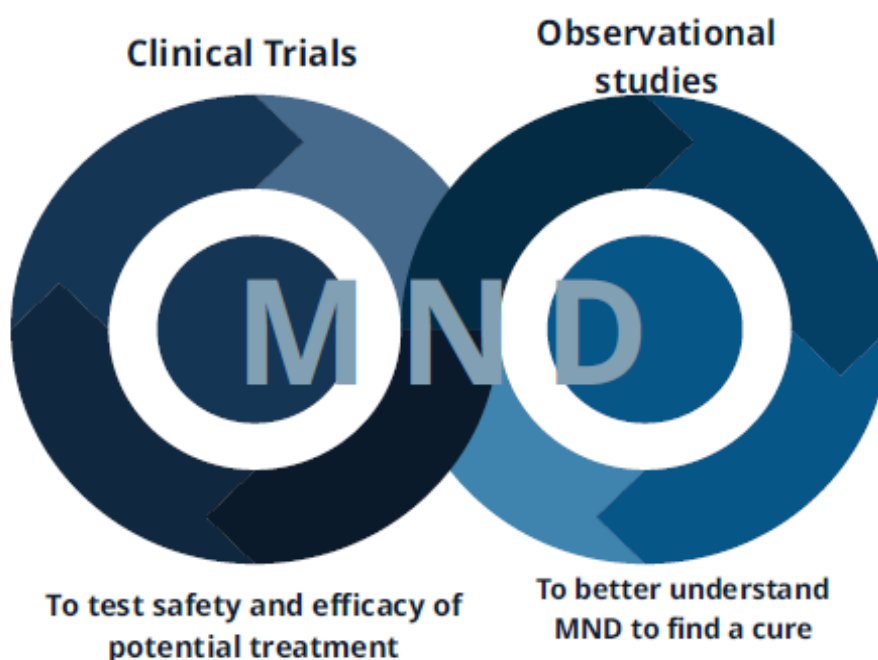
## **WHERE ARE WE?**

The research clinic is held every Thursday afternoon. Attendance can be in person on Level 3, The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR), Herston (RBWH campus), or via video conferencing (i.e., Zoom). For those attending in person, parking is available at RBWH Point Parking beside the main entrance on Butterfield St. We will cover the cost of your parking.

## **WHY DO WE DO RESEARCH?**

The cause of MND is not known and MND varies considerably between people. This adds to a complex understanding of MND and has contributed to a lack in effective treatments for MND.

Through research we aim to find better markers to help identify the causes and consequences of MND. This will help improve diagnosis and monitoring of the progression of MND, allowing more opportunity to measure the impact of potential treatments. Through research we also aim to improve our understanding of the impact of MND. This is important as we work towards developing better support, therapies, and treatments for people with MND.



We are motivated to find better treatments for MND (Clinical Trials) while improving our understanding of MND (Observational studies)

## **CLINICAL TRIALS FOR MND**

Clinical trials test the safety and/or effectiveness of new drugs and treatments for MND. These trials can vary from early-stage studies focusing on safety to later stages that test how well a treatment works. The MND Research Clinic is part of a network of clinical trials in Australia, enrolling people with MND into local and international studies. Studies are updated regularly, and we will discuss participation in current and future clinical trials during a Research clinic visit.

## **OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES IN MND**

Observational studies observe and record information about people with MND without changing their treatment. These studies help us understand how and why MND progresses and identify factors that might influence its development. We work with researchers at the University of Queensland, QUT, and across Queensland and Australia as part of a national effort to improve understanding of MND. Studies are voluntary, and you control how often and when you participate. We will discuss participation in observational studies during a Research Clinic visit.

## **ABOUT US**

### **Clinical Research Leads**

#### **Associate Professor Robert (Rob) Henderson**

MBBS, FRACP, PhD  
Senior Staff Neurologist  
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

#### **Professor Pamela (Pam) McCombe**

MBBS, FRACP, PhD, BSc  
Visiting Neurologist  
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

### **MND Research Coordinators**

#### **Susan (Sue) Heggie, CN**

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

#### **Kathryn (Kate) Thorpe, CN**

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

#### **Robyn Tuffley, CN**

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

#### **Simran (Sam) Sarao, CN**

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

### **Observational Research Leads**

#### **Associate Professor Shyuan (Shu) Ngo**

BSc, PhD  
Research Scientist and Group Leader  
The University of Queensland

#### **Associate Professor Frederik (Derik) Steyn**

MSc, PhD  
Research Scientist and Group Leader  
The University of Queensland

### **MND Clinic Coordinator**

#### **Lily Tang, CNC**

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

### **Observational Studies Coordinator**

#### **Dee Wickremeratne**

Research Co-ordinator  
The University of Queensland

**If you have been diagnosed with MND and are interested in research, either through participation or in gaining further information, please contact:**

**Office hours:** Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4.30 pm

**Email:** [RBWH-Neurologyresearch@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:RBWH-Neurologyresearch@health.qld.gov.au)

**Phone:** 3646 0016 or 3646 1478