



## December 2018

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## Our Mission

*The National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) is a research team located at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Led by Professors Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Donald Staines, the team has a focus on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).*

*Our mission is to translate research findings into preventative medicine, social and clinical care, and public health outcomes. By collaborating with local, national and international research institutes, we aim to create sustained improvements in health and health care for not only those affected by CFS/ME but also other immune disorders.*



## Merry Christmas



The NCNED team would like to thank all of you for your continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and happy New Year.

We sincerely thank the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation, Mr Douglas Stutt, the Mason Foundation, the Alison Hunter Memorial Foundation, the Blake Beckett Foundation, McCusker Charitable Foundation, Buxton Foundation, Change for ME Charity, Qld ME/ CFS/FM Support Association Qld Inc., ACT ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society, the Henty Community, Henty Lions Club and Mr & Mrs Stewart.

Two Professional Fellowships announced for NCNED:

<https://app.secure.griffith.edu.au/news/2018/11/27/generous-2m-donation-to-bolster-efforts-of-griffith-cfs-researchers/?fbclid=IwAR1mCCqAuBO6q1-SYy7r5HHgKKY9esGZC6QNxhgjq-C6kUywxQU DRkqYDDq>

## Publications

Congratulations to Stanley Du Preez and the NCNED researchers on having their manuscript accepted into *BMC Systematic Reviews Journal*.

Du Preez S, Corbitt M, Cabanas H, Eaton-Fitch N, Staines D & Marshall-Gradisnik S: *A Systematic Review of Enteric Dysbiosis in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis*.

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## Awards



Congratulations to NCNED researcher Cassandra Balinas who was awarded Best Oral Presentation at the CFS/ME International Conference 2018 RID: Research, Innovation & Discovery.

Abstract: Balinas C, Cabanas H, Eaton N, Staines D & Marshall-Gradisnik S: *Identification and Characterisation of Transient Receptor Potential Melastatin 2 Ion Channels on Natural Killer Cells using the Novel Application of Flow Cytometry*.

## CFS/ME International Conference

Thank you to everyone who attended the CFS/ME International Conference 2018 RID: Research, Innovation & Discovery. It was a resounding success and a wonderful opportunity to see so many patients, researchers and clinicians coming together to support research into CFS/ME.

NCNED also announced at the Conference the establishment of the Consortium Health International for ME (CHIME). This Consortium consists of multi-site, multi-national collaboration with NCNED across Australia, United States of America, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Poland, Germany and Japan to undertake research investigations into diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology/demographics and health services delivery for CFS/ME.

It is intended the CHIME Consortium will provide an international reference point for CFS/ME research worldwide. CHIME aims to create transformational change in how CFS/ME is diagnosed and treated by establishing a clear nexus between pathomechanism discovery, development of a screening/diagnostic test, and drug development and/or repurposing which will be applied in revised clinical guidelines internationally.

Enhanced epidemiological surveillance and demographic understanding of the illness will be expanded in the context of health services planning and utilisation in CFS/ME. This approach will enable a more standardised approach to these elements of CFS/ME research and treatment world-wide.

## Media Coverage

Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Professor Donald Staines both featured in a recent episode of Insight focusing on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/insight/tvepisode/chronic-fatigue-syndrome>

Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik was recently interviewed by ME News Australia regarding CFS/ME research.

[https://meaustralia.net/2018/12/05/meet-the-scientists-prof-sonya-marshall-gradisnik/?fbclid=IwAR1krCGAphg0NwULtg6m66\\_xpGdm\\_TLI5YtUQa7EwSXpGr0UiCw4XMvJgy0](https://meaustralia.net/2018/12/05/meet-the-scientists-prof-sonya-marshall-gradisnik/?fbclid=IwAR1krCGAphg0NwULtg6m66_xpGdm_TLI5YtUQa7EwSXpGr0UiCw4XMvJgy0)