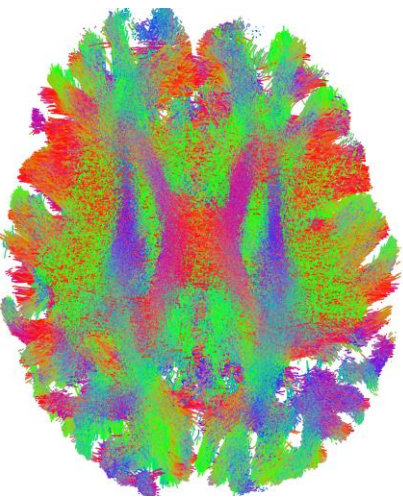


Neuroimaging investigations in ME/CFS



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) is a poorly understood, debilitating and multisystemic disorder affecting approximately 200,000 Australians. The pathological mechanism of ME/CFS remains unknown and there is currently no diagnostic test nor nationally recognised treatment. Cognitive disturbances and neurological dysfunction is a consistent feature of ME/CFS and many patients. Further, there is significant overlap with chronic fatigue (CF) and post-viral syndromes (PVS), including Long COVID. Both functional and structural changes have been reported in the brain of ME/CFS and Long COVID patients when compared with healthy controls. This project aims to collect brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data to investigate changes in ME/CFS and Long COVID patients.

We are recruiting the following participants:

- ME/CFS group: participants who have received a diagnosis of ME/CFS (where diagnosis was made using the CCC 2003 or ICC 2011 definitions).
- PVS group: participants reporting chronic symptoms following a known viral infection but have not received a diagnosis of ME/CFS nor other medical explanation for the symptoms.
- Long COVID group: participants meeting the World Health Organization definition.
- Control group: participants who report no health concerns.

The inclusion criteria are as follows:

- Australian residents aged 18 to 65 years old
- Non-smoker
- No current diagnosis of serious chronic illness, e.g. autoimmune, cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes or primary psychiatric diseases
- Not pregnant or breastfeeding

This study involves:

- Attending a brain MRI imaging appointment
- Completion of an online questionnaire

Participants will enter the draw to win \$75, \$100 and \$150 Coles e-voucher drawn half-yearly. To cover the cost of travel, participants will receive a voucher valued at \$50.

If you are interested in participating, please contact ncned@griffith.edu.au or call on (07) 5678 9283. We would like to thank everyone for their support.



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ncned@griffith.edu.au