

National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases

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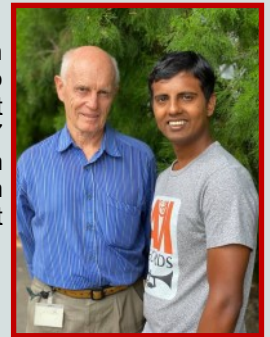
Our Mission

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 Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

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 ME/CFS but also other immune disorders.

MERUK Grant

NCNED researchers Dr. Leighton Barnden and Dr. Kiran Thapaliya have been awarded a \$270,000 grant from ME Research UK (MERUK) for research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS). This project will investigate brainstem dysfunction using an ultra-high field scanner (7 Tesla) in ME/CFS patients and the chief investigators are Dr. Leighton Barnden, Dr. Kiran Thapaliya, Prof. Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik, Prof. Don Staines and Prof. Markus Barth. We would like to thank MERUK for its support to conduct this novel study.



Congratulations



Congratulations to Cassandra Balinas who was recently awarded her PhD at Griffith University, Gold Coast. Ms Balinas' PhD identified that impaired surface expression of TRPM2 and TRPM3 ion channels contributes to reduced natural killer cell cytotoxic activity in ME/CFS patients.

Congratulations to Dr. Kiran Thapaliya who recently attended his PhD graduation ceremony at the University of Queensland. Dr. Thapaliya commenced at NCNED in 2019 and has been studying tissue microstructural changes in ME/CFS patients.



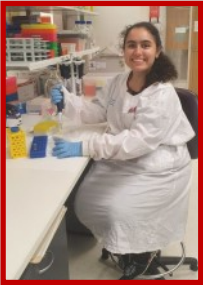
Congratulations to Breanna Weigel who has been accepted for a PhD position with scholarship at NCNED. Breanna's project will be a longitudinal study investigating the HRQoL among ME/CFS patients in Australia and the United Kingdom. This research will also follow up Breanna's Honours project regarding gastrointestinal symptoms, diet, nutrition and supplement use among Australian ME/CFS patients.

NCNED would like to thank the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation, Mr Douglas Stutt, the Mason Foundation, the McCusker Charitable Foundation, Mr Adrian Flack, Mr and Mrs Ian and Talei Stewart, the Alison Hunter Memorial Foundation, the Buxton Foundation, the Henty Community, the Blake Beckett Foundation, Change for ME Charity, ME/CFS/FM Support Association QLD Inc, the ACT ME/CFS Society and ME/CFS and Lyme Association of WA Inc.



PUBLICATIONS

Congratulations to Ms Breanna Weigel and NCNED researchers who published a paper in the leading journal 'Annals of Epidemiology and Public Health' on gastrointestinal symptoms, dietary habits, and their effect on health-related quality of life among Australian ME/CFS patients. "Gastrointestinal symptoms, dietary habits, and the effect on health-related quality of life among Australian myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome patients: A cross-sectional study". Authors: Breanna Weigel, Natalie Eaton-Fitch, Rachel Passmore, H       Cabanas, Donald Staines, Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik. Published in: Annals of Epidemiology and Public Health. Link to article: <https://meddocsonline.org/annals-of-epidemiology-and-public-health/gastrointestinal-symptoms-dietary-habits-and-the-effect-on-health-related-quality-of-life-among-australian-myalgic-encephalomyelitis-chronic-fatigue-syndrome-patients-a-cross-sectional-study.pdf>



NCNED researchers have recently published a systematic review titled "A systematic review of nutraceutical interventions for mitochondrial dysfunctions in myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome" in the Journal of Translational Medicine. Authors: Rebekah Maksoud, Cassandra Balinas, Sean Holden, H       Cabanas, Donald Staines and Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik. Link to article: <https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1186/s12967-021-02742-4?>

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

NCNED is still looking for more participants for our Quality of Life and Burden of Illness associated with illness study. It is open to Australian residents aged 18-65 years old and will involve the completion of two online surveys. Participants will receive a \$5 Coles e-voucher and enter the draw to win \$50, \$75 and \$100 Coles e-vouchers drawn half-yearly.

NCNED is inviting patients formally diagnosed with ME/CFS and healthy controls (aged between 18 to 65 years old) to participate in continuing research using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain. Interested participants will be asked to undergo MRI scanning with an advanced ultra-high field scanner (7 Tesla) for 60 minutes, and on the same day undergo a brief electroencephalogram (EEG) test for 15 minutes. The MRI Scanner is located at UQ, St Lucia so participants need to be able to travel to Brisbane to complete the scan. In addition to this, participants will complete 7 questionnaires for evaluation of fatigue symptoms, life quality, etc; wear a blood pressure cuff on their arm for 24 hours; and wear an activity monitor on their wrist for seven days to record physical activity, heartrate and sleep/wake information.

If you are interested in being part of these studies or would like more information, please contact NCNED on 07 56789283 or email ncned@griffith.edu.au

POSITIONS VACANT

NCNED is currently recruiting for a number of positions within our team.

- Research Assistant Grade 2: please click on the below link for further information on the role and details on how to apply.
<https://www.seek.com.au/job/51722609?type=standard&fbclid=IwAR11mkxtrgZHzVmFhta07bshqKQe5La4tqPzm2II87yV4iZ-2Pa9j0jprY#searchRequestToken=5ddd6d13-336e-428f-abf9-7b1ba531fa1e>

- Research Fellow Grade 1: Please click on the below link for further information on the role and details on how to apply.
<https://www.seek.com.au/job/51669805?type=standard&fbclid=IwAR2um1jOrREk5z4HVktUmXnWZYzIDj2HMvFLgydhYsFUDwMg5likr7QYhE#searchRequestToken=f6dc85d5-29f2-4309-94bd-2399617140fc>

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