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Postal Address:

Griffith University
National Centre for
Neuroimmunology and
Emerging Diseases
Parklands Drive
Mailbox 68
Level 9 Building G40
SOUTHPORT QLD 4222



Our Mission

The National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) is a research team located in the Griffith Health Centre 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.

Grant Success



The NCNED are once again happy to announce that we have been the recipient of a significant Grant from The Mason Foundation.

The project title is "Validation of natural killer cell cytotoxic activity in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis following *in vitro* treatment using anti-CD20 antibody Rituximab."

This project investigates NOUS-defined research priorities for CFS/ME. Variable results of Rituximab (RTX) as a possible treatment in CFS/ME have been reported. Our group has reported a significant reduction in NK cell function following *in vitro* incubation with RTX from CFS/ME patients compared to non-fatigued controls. This proposed study is important in assessing NK cell function in CFS/ME patients who have a significantly reduced NK cell function. This proposal seeks to validate our previous findings and guide decision makers internationally on how to adequately support cases of CFS/ME including improved treatments.

Sonya and Don are the chief investigators who will be encouraging the NCNED young researchers to be involved in the study.

Professor Katsuhiko Muraki—Aichi-Gakuin University, Nagoya, Japan

In January-February 2018 NCNED once again hosted Professor Katsuhiko Muraki from the Aichi-Gakuin University, Nagoya Japan. Professor Muraki is a Professor of Cellular Pharmacology. During his visit Professor Muraki continued training Dr Helene Cabanas on the Patch Clamp Technique (an electrophysiology technique that allows the study of single or multiple ion channels in cells). First results have been obtained and Dr Cabanas will continue experimenting which will produce a publication.



Publications Accepted

Congratulations to Matthew Corbitt and Ellie Khalilidehkordi who have been successful in having their publications accepted to the *Journal of Multiple Sclerosis* and *Probiotics and Antimicrobial Proteins* respectively.

Cabanas H, Eaton N, Khalilidehkordi E, Broadly S, Balinas C, Du Preez S, Maksoud R, Staines D and Marshall-Gradisnik S. *A pilot investigation of natural killer cell function and phenotypes in stable and active multiple sclerosis patients.*



Corbitt M, Campagnolo N, Staines D, Marshall-Gradisnik S. *A Systematic Review of Probiotic Interventions for Gastrointestinal Symptoms and Irritable Bowel Syndrome in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).*

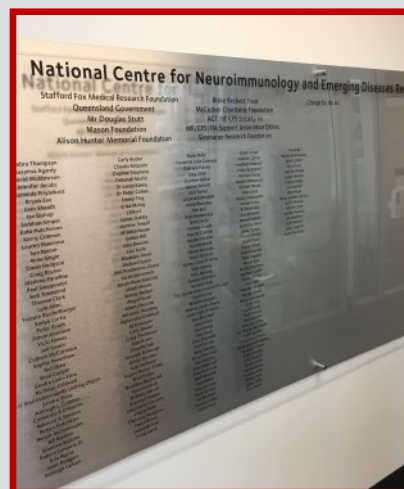
Thank you to the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation, Mr Douglas Stutt, the Mason Foundation, the Alison Hunter Memorial Foundation, the Blake Beckett Foundation, Change for ME Charity, Qld ME/CFS/FM Support Association Qld Inc. and the ACT ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society.

Donations Board

We have acquired a new Donations Board as we have been completely overwhelmed by the continued generosity from our many supporters. This board, with every donors' name, is proudly and prominently displayed within our NCNED centre.

These amazing donations ensure that our research and up and coming studies continue leading to the publication of our research for all to follow (as seen above).

Thank you so very much—the **NCNED Team**.



Welcome to the NCNED Team



NCNED is delighted to introduce Ms Tania Manning (Administration Assistant). Tania will be working to ensure every CFS/ME patient is kept up-to-date with our research, coordinating researchers and projects.

Tania has an extensive administrative background including clinical trial experience and has worked in a diverse range of industries including environmental science/engineering, IT, government, education and accounting/auditing.