

ION CHANNEL DYSFUNCTION IN ME/CFS and long COVID

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. Immunological dysfunction is a consistent feature of ME/CFS and many patients report onset following an infection. Further, there is significant overlap with chronic fatigue (CF) and post-viral syndromes (PVS), such as Long. Transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channels have been implicated in the pathomechanism of ME/CFS and recent data suggests this channel provides a potential therapeutic target and may benefit ME/CFS patients. This project aims to investigate the role of ion channel dysfunction in ME/CFS and Long COVID patients as potential diagnostic and therapeutic targets.

COHORT

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.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

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

YOUR PARTICIPATION

This study involves:

- Donations of 84ml of blood
- Completion of an online questionnaire

Participants will receive a \$25 Coles e-voucher and enter the draw to win \$75, \$100 and \$150 Coles e-voucher drawn half-yearly.

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.

This recruitment flyer has been reviewed and approved by Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee

