

May 2018

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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.

Henty Visit



Co-Director of NCNED, Professor Don Staines, was invited to attend a function to raise awareness of ME/CFS within the Henty community at the Henty Community Club on Friday 23 February.

The event was attended by in excess of 200 people. All present were very intent on hearing what Don had to say and there were many questions answered following his address. At the conclusion of the night's events the NCNED was the recipient of an extremely generous donation from the Henty community which will be used for ongoing research within our centre. Thank you greatly to all who attended.

Media Coverage

On the 4 April SBS ran a feature on "The Feed" in relation to CFS/ME and the NDIS. Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and the NCNED researchers discussed the advancements in understanding the pathology and tests for CFS/ME. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/fighting-disbelief-chronic-fatigue-syndrome>

Today Tonight recently interviewed Professor Don Staines regarding the research that is currently being undertaken by the NCNED into CFS/ME. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paPIhWm26hw&app=desktop>

NCNED research also featured prominently in an article published in The Guardian on 12 May, highlighting the #MillionsMissing with ME/CFS. https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/12/to-the-millionsmissing-with-mecfs-something-remarkable-is-happening?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik and Professor Don Staines' research into a diagnostic test for CFS/ME featured in an article that was published in The Sunday Mail on 20 May, which highlighted the stories of two CFS/ME sufferers and the effects the condition has had on their lives.

Publications Accepted



Congratulations to Dr Zack Shan who has been successful in having his publication accepted to *Neuroimage: Clinical*.

Shan Z, Finegan K, Bhuta S, Ireland T, Staines D, Marshall-Gradisnik S and Barnden L. *Brain Function Characteristics of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Task fMRI Study*.

Congratulations to Professor Don Staines, Stanley Du Preez and the NCNED team who have been successful in having their publication accepted to the *International Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

Staines D, Du Preez S, Cabanas H, Balinas C, Eaton N, Passmore R, Maksoud R, Redmayne J and Marshall-Gradisnik S. *Transient Receptor Potential Ion Channels in the Etiology and Pathomechanism of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis*.



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.

Unrest Screening



NCNED held a screening of the award winning film Unrest on Friday 11 May at Griffith University, Gold Coast. This was a very special night and we wish to thank all those who attended.

The Griffith Health Centre was also lit up blue in acknowledgement of International ME/CFS Awareness Day on 12 May. Thank you to everyone for your continued recognition and support.



Japan Presentation

Professor Donald Staines presented on behalf of NCNED at the Asian Conference on Education & International Development in Kobe, Japan in March.

This presentation acknowledged how the entire team works to nurture and encourage young researchers and undergraduate students to forge a successful career in biomedical sciences.

This international presentation highlighted key skills, whether laboratory written or analytical, and how they are scaffolded to ensure a successful biomedical scientific career.

