

# National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases

May 2021

In this issue:-

Our Mission	1
International ME/CFS Awareness Day 2021	1
Publications	2
Welcome	2
International ME/CFS Conference 2021: RID	2
Research Volunteers	2
Appreciation and Acknowledgement of Granting Organisations, Agencies, Benefactors and Fundraisers	2

## Postal Address:

National Centre for  
Neuroimmunology and  
Emerging Diseases  
Griffith University  
Gold Coast  
G40, Mailbox 68  
SOUTHPORT QLD 4222



NCNED contact:

(07) 5678 9283 or  
[ncned@griffith.edu.au](mailto:ncned@griffith.edu.au)

## 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).*

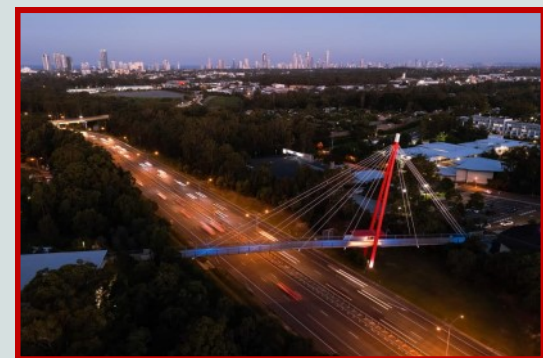
*Our mission is to translate research findings into preventative medicine, social and clinical care, and public health outcomes. By collaborating with local, national and international research institutes, we aim to create sustained improvements in health and health care for not only those affected by ME/CFS but also other immune disorders.*

## International ME/CFS Awareness Day 2021

International ME/CFS Awareness Day every year honours people who suffer from ME/CFS and those who have passed away. It is also a time where we redouble our efforts to ensure the best quality research which will lead to understanding the pathophysiology of the illness, developing a diagnostic test, and discovering effective treatments.

At NCNED, Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University, our first priority is, and will always be, ME/CFS patients. This belief and attitude is reflected by the past 10 years NCNED has illuminated our research centre with blue lights. We were the first, and continue to be the only, Australian Medical Research and Clinical Centre to participate in this important and significant international initiative.

NCNED is committed to delivering the best possible outcomes for patients that make beneficial and positive impacts to their lives. This year NCNED lit up a number of buildings located at our Gold Coast Campus as well as created a "Blue Ribbon" on our campus for recognition— please see images below.



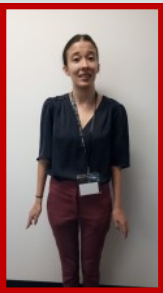
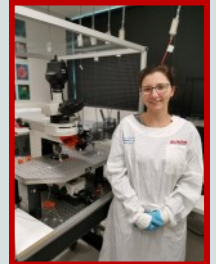
## PUBLICATIONS



NCNED researchers have recently published a systematic review titled “Systematic Review of Sleep Characteristics in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome” as part of the special issue of Healthcare ME/CFS – the Severely and Very Severely Affected. Authors: Rebekah Maksoud, Natalie Eaton-Fitch, Michael Matula, Hélène Cabanas, Donald Staines and Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik. Link to article: <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/9/5/568>

## WELCOME

NCNED warmly welcomes Etianne Martini Sasso to the team. She will be completing Patch Clamp Electrophysiology training with our researchers over the next month, with a view to complete her PhD in this area. This work continues our ME/CFS drug discovery and ion channel investigations that forms a research aim of our successful NHMRC Grant Targeted Call for Research ME/CFS 2021-2024.



NCNED was delighted to welcome a visiting Research Fellow, Teagan Er, from Professor Livia Hool's Laboratory, University of Western Australia. Teagan undertook Patch Clamp Electrophysiology Training with our researchers to continue our ME/CFS drug discovery and ion channel investigations that forms a research aim of our successful NHMRC Grant Targeted Call for Research ME/CFS 2021-2024.

## INTERNATIONAL ME/CFS CONFERENCE 2021: RID

We are pleased to announce our second ME/CFS International Conference 2021: RID—Research, Innovation and Discovery to be held at Sea World Resort and Conference Centre, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia on the 16th and 17th of November 2021.

This will be a hybrid conference – a mixture of both in person and virtual presentations from national and international speakers and will focus on the latest scientific research data and translation to clinical evidence in Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

Please consider submitting an abstract for this Conference. The link can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/r/s9zquqFwCC>

To register, please click on the following link: <https://app.secure.griffith.edu.au/griffithpay/RID-2021.html>

## 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, heart rate 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](mailto:ncned@griffith.edu.au)

## APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANTING ORGANISATIONS, AGENCIES, BENEFACTORS AND FUNDRAISERS

Thank you to the Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation, McCusker Charitable Foundation, Mr Douglas Stutt, the Mason Foundation, Mr and Mrs Ian and Talei Stewart, the Alison Hunter Memorial Foundation, the Blake Beckett Foundation, Mr Adrian Flack, the Buxton Foundation, the Henty Community, 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.