



The
Neurosciences
Foundation

Multiple Sclerosis

The Neurosciences Foundation aims to support early stage research that will be of potential benefit to patients. Here is an example of one of our current projects in Multiple Sclerosis.

It is estimated that over 2.5 million people in the world have MS and a disproportionately large fraction of these are in northern European locations like Scotland. Although our understanding of MS is improving and new treatment options are appearing, we are still a long way from identifying critical biological mechanisms that are central to the development of MS.

One way of exploring this is to use an imaging technique called PET [positron emission tomography]. In PET special biological substances called tracers that emit tiny amounts of radiation are used. The tracers mimic normal biological function. They are injected into patients and their paths through the body can be tracked. This shows whether abnormally high or abnormally low amounts of the substances are getting to specific parts of the body, and any irregularities give clues as to what's going wrong.

In Glasgow there are two clinical PET scanners at Gartnavel Hospital and in Edinburgh a combined PET-MRI scanner is being installed.



A team led by chemists, biologists and physicists in Glasgow and Edinburgh are working to develop tracers that will enable some of the processes that are thought to lead to the development of MS to be studied in patients. If abnormalities are found, this will then help in the evaluation of the action of new MS drugs.

The Neurosciences Foundation awarded £33,915 to support this work.

Any donations towards our current medical research projects enable Neurosciences Foundation funds to be used to support future projects. Contributions can be made by going to <https://mydonate.bt.com/donation/start.html?charity=148827>. If you would like your contribution to be towards this specific project please specify that when making the donation. Thank you.