

Preliminary agenda *(subject to change)*

Monday 14 July

19.00 – 21.30 Welcome reception

Join us and your fellow delegates in Carney & Scott's for a welcome reception

Tuesday 15 July

09.00 – 09.30 Networking breakfast and registration

Join us and your fellow delegates for an informal breakfast in Carney & Scott's

09.30 – 15.00 The science of storytelling – turning complex ideas into simple stories

09.30 Welcome to MND EnCouRage UK 2025 *Mandy Spencer, MND Association*

09.35 We are the MND Association *Dr Nick Cole, MND Association*

09.45 Interactive workshop – The Secrets of Storytelling and Powerful Public Speaking *Simon Hall, University of Cambridge*

If you want to become that speaker who everyone remembers, and always has a waiting list of invitations, this workshop reveals how. We'll explore all you need to know to interest, impress and inspire when presenting your investigation in only two hours of a high intensity, highly interactive and – maybe even – highly entertaining workshop.

11.45 BREAK

12.05 Lightning Talks – Part 1

12.45 Lightning Talks feedback and Q&As *Chairs – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association and Dr Scott Allen, University of Sheffield*

12.55 LUNCH

13.55 Lightning Talks – Part 2

14.35 Lightning Talks feedback and Q&As *Chairs – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association and Dr Scott Allen, University of Sheffield*

14.45 BREAK

15.00 – 16.10 Real-world perspectives of MND

15.00 Introduction *Mandy Spencer, MND Association*

15.05 Real-world perspectives discussion panel *Chair – Prof Kevin Talbot, University of Oxford*
Prof Kevin Talbot will be joined by Anna Barrow, who is living with MND, and Martyn Barrow, who is Anna's husband and carer, to talk about their journeys and life with the condition.

15.35 Q&As *Chair – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association*

15.50 BREAK

16.10 – 18.00 Navigating your career path

16.10	Introduction	Dr Nick Cole, MND Association
16.15	From postgrad to professor: Insights and advice	Panel – Prof Ammar Al-Chalabi, King's College London Prof Sharon Abrahams, University of Edinburgh (TBC) Prof Kevin Talbot, University of Oxford Dr Caroline Vance, King's College London Dr Scott Allen, University of Sheffield Dr Roisin McMackin, Trinity College Dublin
16.45	Securing funding – five lessons	TBC
17.00	Life outside the lab? Navigating non-scientific career paths	Prof Lucie Bruijn, Novartis
17.15	Work and life: Finding your happy medium	Dr Roisin McMackin, Trinity College Dublin
17.25	Talking research – Q&As	Chair – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association
17.55	Looking forward to Day 2 and close	Mandy Spencer, MND Association

Please join us for a networking BBQ (finish approx. 21.30)

Wednesday 15 July

09.45 – 10.15 Networking breakfast

Join us for an informal breakfast and catch up with your fellow delegates

10.15 – 13.45 Media workshops

10.15	Welcome to Day 2	Mandy Spencer, MND Association
10.20	Inspiring the next generation of MND researchers	Mandy Spencer, MND Association
10.25	Group A – Unlocking the power of social media <i>From lab to likes – boost your research impact</i>	TBC
	Group B – Making headlines <i>Sharing news your way – an interactive workshop to make you a great interviewee</i>	Suzanne Ostler, Joe Spires and Domonique Dickens, MND Association and Simon Hall, University of Cambridge
11.25	BREAK	
11.45	Group B – Unlocking the power of social media <i>From lab to likes – boost your research impact</i>	TBC
	Group A – Making headlines <i>Sharing news your way – an interactive workshop to make you a great interviewee</i>	Suzanne Ostler, Joe Spires and Domonique Dickens, MND Association and Simon Hall, University of Cambridge

12.45 LUNCH

We will be joined for lunch by people living with and affected by MND who will be attending for the rest of the event.

13.45 – 16.15 Lightning Talks

13.45	Welcome to MND EnCouRage UK 2025	Mandy Spencer, MND Association
13.50	Lightning Talks – Part 1	
14.30	Q&As	Chairs – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association and Dr Caroline Vance, University of Sheffield
14.45	BREAK	
15.00	Lightning Talks – Part 2	
15.40	Q&As	Chairs – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association and Dr Caroline Vance, University of Sheffield
15.55	BREAK	

16.15 – 19.00 Research unwrapped

16.15	Introduction	Mandy Spencer, MND Association
16.20	Controversy in clinical trials <i>A round-table discussion about the design and purpose of clinical trials</i>	Prof Ammar Al-Chalabi, King's College London
17.20	BREAK	
17.40	Cognitive decline	Prof Sharon Abrahams, University of Edinburgh (TBC)
18.00	Therapeutic approaches to MND	TBC
18.20	Research Nurse Network – an update	Kate Hartley, MND Association (TBC)
18.30	Driving progress – the latest from the MND Association	Dr Brian Dickie, MND Association
18.40	Q&As	Chair – Dr Nick Cole, MND Association
18.55	Closing remarks	Mandy Spencer, MND Association

Please join us for drinks in Carney & Scott's followed by dinner at 19.30