

2024/2025 FIGHTMND PHD SCHOLARSHIP AND PROJECT GRANT-IN-AID AWARD

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MND OVERVIEW

MND is the name given to a group of diseases in which the nerve cells (neurons) controlling the muscles that enable us to move around, speak, swallow, and breathe fail to work normally and eventually die. With no nerves to activate them, the muscles gradually weaken and waste away, and with no residual muscle strength, MND patients are left motionless, mute, and trapped within their once active bodies. In the majority, the mind and intellect are left intact.

The disease is also known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease in the USA, and although patterns of weakness and rates of progression vary from patient to patient, and while some people may live a long time with MND, the average life expectancy is only 27 months from diagnosis in Australia.

MND FACTS

- The estimated lifetime risk of being diagnosed with MND varies geographically around the world, but has been reported to be between 1:350 to 1:500 in Australia and European countries, and between 1:600 to 1:1000 in the USA;
- It is estimated that there were 2094 Australians with MND in 2015, or 8.7 in 100,000 people;
- Mean survival in Australian MND patients following diagnosis is only 27 months;
- 60% of MND sufferers in Australia are male, and 40% female;
- Approximately 58% of people with MND in Australia are under the age of 65;
- The number of deaths due to MND in Australia is increasing. The latest available data from the Australian Institute of Health and Wellbeing (AIHW) shows that of the 158,493 deaths registered in Australia in 2018, 755 were MND related. MND therefore accounted for 1 in ~200 deaths in 2018.

There is currently no truly effective treatment and no known cure, so this is why we fight MND.

FIGHTMND

FightMND is a 100% not-for-profit foundation established in 2014. Our vision is **A World Without MND** and our purpose is to champion hope and lead the fight against MND. FightMND aims to raise the profile of Motor Neurone Disease within Australia and abroad in the hopes that increased awareness may lead to not only better care for those affected by the disease, but also increased funding for vital research into finding a cure.

We are Australia's leading independent MND foundation with a strong key focus and strategy towards driving national MND clinical trials with equitable access for all MND patients throughout the country. We work closely with other national and state MND bodies, taking a lead role in the clinical trials development and provision process, doing so with a sense urgency and equality on behalf of all Australian's currently fighting this disease.

Large-scale collaborative drug development projects continue to be a primary focus of FightMND, driving exciting new research discoveries in the laboratory through phases of preclinical research, drug development and assessment necessary to advance potential therapeutics through to clinical trial.

FIGHTMND'S PRIMARY AIMS ARE:

TO CURE

At FightMND we are passionate about funding leading research within Australia with the aim of expediting discoveries of potential treatments for MND sufferers, and ultimately to finding a cure. We do this in the hope of one day living in a world free from MND.

TO CARE

Until a Cure is discovered and available, FightMND recognises that ongoing care is needed for those fighting MND. FightMND invests in programs to support, improve and innovate the care that people living with and affected by MND in Australia receive.

TO MAKE AWARE

FightMND will continue to push MND into the spotlight and increase the public profile of MND within the Australian and wider communities, in the hope that people, governments and pharmaceutical companies will take up the fight and join us in the quest for viable treatments, and ultimately, a cure. It takes people.

INTRODUCTION

FightMND call for proposals:

2 PhD Scholarship opportunities are available in 2025.

Angie Cunningham Biomedical PhD Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid for Basic and Translational Science:

PhD Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid applications for novel, innovative projects aimed at understanding the causes of MND, elucidating disease mechanisms and/or tackling one or more key issues contributing to the lack of effective treatments for MND.

MND Care PhD Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid:

PhD Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid applications for novel, innovative projects focused on determining and improving on best-practice care for people living with MND. Projects must demonstrate how outcomes will lead to advancements in MND care research, and to improve quality of life for people living with MND, their carers, and families.

Applications open: 2nd September 2024

Applications due: 16th December 2024, by 17:00 AEDT

Recipients notified: February 2025

PURPOSE OF THE PHD SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROJECT GRANT-IN-AID AWARD

FightMND is pleased to announce a call for applications to support the training of two graduate students in their pursuit of achieving a PhD qualification while performing research directly relevant to the causes, treatment or care of people with Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

Support will not normally exceed three years, and applicants must submit proposals that are focused and compatible with a 3-year timeframe. Continuation of the Award beyond the 3-year period will be subject to review, with additional funding to support a 6-month extension considered following review of submitted annual progress and financial reports over the course of the 3-year award.

Reporting is an essential requirement of the Award (see Terms and Conditions 1.1 and 15) and should be considered when outlining your experimental and project plan.

Both the Angie Cunningham Biomedical and MND Care PhD Scholarships and Project Grant-in-Aid Awards support 3-year projects up to a value of \$220,000 (\$255,500 pending approval of 6-month extension).

A total of \$70,000 AUD per annum is available for a 3-year Scholarship and Project Grant-in-Aid. This funding comprises:

- A student stipend of \$40,000 per annum; and

- \$30,000 per annum in project and laboratory expenses (Grant-in-Aid).

Additional funding will be provided for the following:

- A total budget of \$10,000 over the duration of the PhD candidature for travel and conference attendance;
- After approval by FightMND, a further 6 months of funding to the value of \$35,000 is available for PhD projects extending to a duration of 3.5-years (\$20,000 towards student stipend and \$15,000 for laboratory expenses).
- Applicants who have 5 or more years of relevant work experience may be eligible for a top-up scholarship of \$5,000 per annum, subject to application

Candidates who are no more than 1 year (Candidature start date no earlier than 1st January 2024) into their candidature at the time of application are also eligible to apply for this scholarship to support the remainder of the tenure.

See Terms and Conditions for further details.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are invited from prospective supervisors of PhD students based in research institutions in Australia. The Applicant (Principal Supervisor) must have demonstrable experience of supervising PhD students.

Eligible projects for the Project Grant-in-Aid portion of this Award must fulfil the following criteria:

- i. The project must have an MND focus;
- ii. Within the scope of the project must either:
 - a. Demonstrate a 'bench-to-bedside' potential for outcomes obtained, focussed on MND disease control or cure; OR
 - b. Demonstrate potential improved quality of life for people affected by MND
- iii. Be hypothesis driven with defined aims and milestones;
- iv. Where possible demonstrate a multi-institutional collaborative approach;
- v. Must be conducted in an Australian research or clinical institution;
- vi. Applicants and their institutions must commit to funding all on-costs and administrative overheads as a contribution to the project. 100% of FightMND's 'Grant-in-Aid' funding must be spent on core project costs;
- vii. Capital equipment, depreciation, or maintenance of equipment will not be funded by FightMND;
- viii. Any other actual or proposed sources of funding to support the project must be disclosed; and
- ix. The project funded must be directly associated with the PhD scholarship outlined in the application and can commence as soon as it is awarded. The project must commence within 3 months of the return and receipt of a signed Award Agreement to FightMND (or the Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid shall lapse).

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants seeking to undertake a PhD focused on MND with the Primary Supervisor must fulfil the following criteria:

- i. Have completed:
 - a. a Bachelor's degree with Honours in Science, Biomedical Science or a related discipline; OR
 - b. a Bachelor of Biomedical Science within a Bachelor of Medicine (or equivalent) OR
 - c. A Bachelor's degree with Honours in Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Public Health, Social Work or other related fields.
- ii. Have not yet commenced their PhD candidature OR have commenced their PhD training no earlier than 01 January 2024.
- iii. Do not currently hold any competitive PhD scholarship (e.g. Australian Research Training Program (RTP) scholarship, NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships, University Graduate Scholarships etc.).

- iv. Must meet entry requirements for the PhD program as set out by their research institute and department of choice.
- v. No criteria on nationality of the applicant will be imposed, however Primary supervisor and Applicant must be based in Australia at the time of application.
- vi. Proposals for PhD projects in a clinical or laboratory setting will be considered.

PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE PROJECT

It is expected that the Applicant/Primary Supervisor will be actively engaged in directing the project and supervising the PhD candidate.

COLLABORATORS

Where the viability of a project depends on the collaboration/involvement with an investigator or investigators not named as applicants, the exact role of the collaborator/s should be clearly stated and confirmation from each collaborator indicating their willingness to participate must be provided with the application.

ANGIE CUNNINGHAM – THE INSPIRATION

It is said that the qualities of a good PhD Student are perseverance, tenacity, courage, and the ability to communicate. The Angie Cunningham FightMND PhD Scholarship and Project Grant-in-Aid Award honours the life and qualities of a woman who was the embodiment of all of these traits and more.

Angie was a girl from Tasmania who had not only a natural ability, but an undying perseverance. She applied this to her passion – tennis. At the age of 11, she conquered the national tournament and came to the attention of sports selectors. Her tenacity saw her leave home at the age of 14 to attend the Australian Institute of Sport, and she went on to hit a peak junior doubles ranking of No.2. Angie appeared in the Wimbledon girls' doubles final in 1991 as well as two Australian Open girls' doubles finals.

Later Angie went on to work as the Vice President of Player Relations and on-site operations at the Women's Tennis Association. Her colleagues have said that it took 3 people to replace the work that she did for years on her own.

These qualities allowed Angie to stare down the barrel of MND with steadfast courage when she was diagnosed with the devastating disease at the age of 38. A wife to Pat, and a mother of two young girls aged 6 and 3, within days of the diagnosis Angie made a firm decision to “focus on the things that I have, not what I have lost”.

Her ability to communicate and share her compassionate, loving spirit is something all her friends can attest to. She was a mentor for young tennis players, a firm support for professional tennis players and colleagues, and a true friend.

Her spoken word was full of humour and love, and it was these qualities that allowed her to navigate her journey with MND with dignity, grace and a complete appreciation for the value of life and love. She and Pat started the Laugh to Cure Campaign in 2014, before joining forces with Dr Ian Davis and Neale Daniher to form The Cure for MND Foundation and FightMND.

**Angie's legacy is that of courage,
selflessness and eternal positivity against all the odds.**

OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURE

FightMND supports biomedical and clinical care research in the field of Motor Neurone Disease (MND), encompassing all relevant research disciplines. The objectives of the FightMND PhD Scholarship and Project Grant-in-Aid Award are to:

- Support research aimed at
 - understanding the causes of MND, elucidating disease mechanisms and facilitating the translation of therapeutic strategies from the laboratory to the clinic; OR
 - Innovating and improving the care that people affected by MND receive, to improve the quality of lives of people affected by MND.
- Encourage new interest within the field of MND research from exceptional new postgraduates;
- Help develop PhD graduates who demonstrate academic leadership, independence, creativity and innovation in their work and foster a passion for future MND research;
- Build capacity across the biomedical and allied health MND research sector

FightMND only supports work carried out in bona fide research and clinical institutions.

PRIVACY, CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All information contained in applications forwarded to FightMND will be regarded as confidential. Documents containing personal information will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic). Personal information will only be disclosed with the permission of the individual to whom it relates, or where the Act allows.

Applicants consent to the information supplied as part of their application being disclosed for the purposes of the evaluation and administration of the application. Such disclosure includes but is not limited to independent reviewers/assessors, the FightMND Grant Review Panel (GRP), the FightMND Board and relevant employees of FightMND involved in the research grant process.

Applicants acknowledge that announcement of the Award will involve a dissemination of information to the public about the general nature of the funded Scholarship and Grant.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

FightMND requires its independent reviewers and grant review panel to act in an ethical manner, declare conflicts of interest, and withdraw from considering applications where such conflict does or may exist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

Successful applicants are required to acknowledge FightMND in any publications, public announcements, media, and scientific meeting presentations or discussion forums pertaining to research conducted. FightMND materials, logos and images can be supplied for this purpose, if required.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by national and/or international experts on the following criteria for PhD Scholarships:

- Research Aims and Background;
- Research Plan;
- Supervisor and Institute; and
- PhD Candidate

Each criteria is scored out of five by peer reviewers, according to FightMND guidelines. Refer to Appendix 2 for scoring descriptors for the PhD Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid.

FIGHTMND VALUES

The alignment of research proposals with FightMND values are also considered when reviewing applications. These are:

Community – driving collaboration in the community, including knowledge sharing.

Integrity – supporting research excellence and research with high-impact potential.

Urgency – research that is driven by and demonstrates urgency.

Boldness – supporting innovative research that takes considered and justified risks aimed at developing a better treatment and/or cure for MND.

Efficiency – supporting research in a disciplined manner, being cognisant of proposed budgets and financial and non-financial costs.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications are submitted to FightMND and are independently peer reviewed prior to consideration by FightMND's Cure or Care Sub-Committee. The Cure or Care Sub-Committee's funding recommendations are then considered by the Board of FightMND. Key factors in determination of awarding of this Award grant will include the:

- i. Research and supervisory track record of the Applicant (Principal Supervisor);
- ii. Quality and strength of the research project/plan;
- iii. Academic and track records of the PhD candidate; and
- iv. Alignment of the Project and Applicant towards the core aims and mission of FightMND.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

FightMND will only accept applications submitted via the Fluxx Grant Management System, which can be accessed at the following link <https://fightmnd.fluxx.io>.

All administrative information and project proposals as outlined below are to be entered into the application forms in Fluxx. Resources are available to help you with this new submission procedure.

- [How to register a new user account in Fluxx](#)
- [How to submit a PhD scholarship application in Fluxx](#) (written manual)
- [How to submit a PhD scholarship application in Fluxx](#) (guided video)

If you experience any issues or have questions regarding the submission process, please contact the FightMND Cure team at researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications must include the following:

APPLICATION FORM

Details on the application form will be entered directly into the Fluxx Grant Management System, and will include the following details:

- Applicants (Primary Supervisor and PhD Candidate)
- Type of scholarship (Angie Cunningham Biomedical or Clinical Care)
- Title of project.
- Name of the Administering Institution.
- Name of the institution where the project work will be undertaken.
- Details of Co-Investigators (co-supervisors).

- Details and evidence of current enrolment (if applicable)
- Statement on candidate's relevant work experience to the PhD scholarship application, including length of work experience and relevancy to the research project (1250 characters)
- A lay summary of the project *suitable for media release* if the application is successful (300 characters).
- A lay summary of the project *suitable for publication on the FightMND website and newsletter* if the application is successful (1500 characters).
 - Provide background information necessary for readers without scientific or medical training to understand the rationale and feasibility of the proposed research project. It should also clearly describe the scientific objective the project is designed to achieve.
- Statement on the potential impact of the project (1250 characters).
- A summary of how you will engage with people living with MND about the project (750 characters).

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Proposals must be uploaded as a single pdf file onto Fluxx (max 5MB) and contain the following details:

PROJECT PLAN AND BACKGROUND (3 PAGES MAX.).

Include:

- Aims and Hypothesis;
- Background and Supporting Data;
- Research plan, including data and statistical analyses, outcomes and significance;
- Impact of the project for people living with MND.

REFERENCES (1 PAGE MAX.).

DECLARATION RESEARCH FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Details of research funding from other sources (actual or proposed) that relate to the Project's hypothesis, aims and research plan must be declared.

Include:

- Applicant(s), and Title of other Application;
- Funding Source/Organisation and Application ID;
- Role of Investigator on other Application; and
- Total amount requested.
- Status – i.e. funded/under consideration

APPLICANT (SUPERVISOR) AND INSTITUTE BACKGROUND (2 PAGES MAX.).

Details on the Applicant's (Supervisor's) career achievements and goals, and their, and the Research Institute's suitability for training and progressing the research career of the PhD Candidate.

Include:

- Career Summary;
- Research support (last 5 years);
- Track record of PhD supervision;
- Statement of encouragement outlining strategy to keep the PhD candidate in the field of MND research;
- Institute background and key research priorities.

COLLABORATORS (1 PAGE MAX.).

- Where the viability of a project depends on collaboration/involvement with investigators not named as Applicants, the exact role of the collaborator(s) should be clearly stated and confirmation from each collaborator indicating their willingness to participate must be enclosed with the full application (eg. Email confirmation from collaborator).

CURRICULUM VITAE OF PHD CANDIDATE (2 PAGES MAX.)

Prospective candidates should hold a first or upper second-class honours degree or relevant work experience.

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT OF PHD CANDIDATE.

- Provide an Academic Transcript of the PhD Candidate.

REFEREES.

- Provide names and contact details of **one** referee.
 - A letter of Support and Recommendation for the PhD candidate is required.
 - The referee should not be the Supervisor, not other members within the Supervisor's research group. .
- In their letter, referees may comment on:
 - Particular achievements of the applicant making them worthy of this award;
 - Whether the applicant has the willingness and endeavour to pursue the proposed research program;
 - How they see the applicants future in Australian research.

Referees may choose to provide their letter of support in one of the following ways:

- 1) As part of this application. Referees will provide their letters of support to the applicant, who will add the two letters to the 'Project Proposal' single pdf file; or
- 2) Directly to FightMND, by email to researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au.

The Letter of Support (LoS) from each referee must be received by the due date of the application.

In the subject line of the email, referees should please include the Applicant's Surname and the phrase 'Angie Cunningham PhD Award LoS'.

THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS ARE TO BE UPLOADED ON TO THE FLUXX APPLICATION FORM SEPARATELY TO THE PROJECT PROPOSAL:

TIMELINE (MAX. 1 PAGE).

- Include a detailed timeline for the research during the fellowship period, in Gantt chart format, that encompasses the delivery of research aims, proposed experiments and outcomes.

Reporting is an important requirement for the Angie Cunningham PhD Scholarship and Project Grant-in-Aid (see Award Terms and Condition 1.1 and 15). Please consider this when planning your experiments and project.

BUDGET.

Provide a high-level budget summary of total expenditure per year for the \$30,000 AUD allocated towards direct research costs per year of the PhD candidature, entered directly into Fluxx (see instruction manual, or [instruction video](#) (at 4:50).

- Budget items should include:
 - Stipend for PhD candidate under salary (max. \$35,000 p.a., no overheads or oncosts);
 - Direct research costs (max. \$30,000, towards reagents, consumables, animal costs, microscopy, participant reimbursement etc);
 - Travel for attendance at academic conferences (max. \$10,000 over the 3-year duration of PhD candidature).
- Budget items cannot include:
 - Equipment;
 - Institution indirect or overhead costs.

HOW TO SUBMIT

All applications are to be submitted through the FightMND Grant Management System Fluxx (<https://fightmnd.fluxx.io>).

- Select “PhD Scholarship” in the Fluxx Grant Management System to access the PhD Scholarship application form;
- The PROJECT PROPOSAL should be submitted as a single PDF (minimum size 12 font – calibri preferred, minimum 1 cm page margins), uploaded onto the Application form on the Fluxx Grant Management System (pdf size not to exceed 5MB);

The PROJECT PROPOSAL should include the following components:

- Project Plan and Background;
 - References;
 - Declaration of research funding from other sources;
 - Applicant (Supervisor) and Institute Background;
 - Letter of support from the Administering Institution;
 - Collaborators;
 - Curriculum Vitae of PhD Candidate;
 - Academic Transcript of PhD candidate
 - Name and Contact details of Referee
 - Referee Letter of Support and Recommendation (if submitting with the application).
- The TIMELINE should be uploaded separately into the Application form on the Fluxx Grant Management System.

Application deadlines are described in this guideline.

Applications will NOT be accepted if submitted via email

REPORTING

Funding recipients will be required to submit reports on a regular basis via the Fluxx Grant Management system (details will be provided to successful applicants). The reporting schedule is outlined in the following table.

REPORT	REPORTING FREQUENCY	DUE
Progress against pre-determined milestones and/or targets *	Annually	Every 12 months from receipt of funds
Financial Reports (to be included in progress report) *	Annually	Every 12 months from the receipt of funds
Final Report	Once Only	At project completion, or within 12 weeks after project completion.
Ad hoc reports *	As requested by FightMND	On request with a negotiable time frame not greater than six weeks
FightMND Research Symposium Presentation	Biennially	During FightMND Research Symposium

* These reports will be used to assess whether the PhD and Project is proceeding satisfactorily, whether funds are being acquitted in accordance with the original application goals, and to ascertain the ongoing value of FightMND funding.

Funding may be suspended if progress is considered unsatisfactory, or if funds have not been utilised in accordance with the Angie Cunningham PhD Scholarship and Grant Agreement.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

FIGHTMND GRANTS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All communication concerning FightMND grant applications and administration should be addressed to the FightMND team, at researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au.

1. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

1.1. FightMND research Grants are time limited and applicants should ensure that proper consideration is given to this in the proposal. When the project is approved in principle, the initial sum awarded by FightMND will be for the first year only. Approval of funding for subsequent years, at twelve (12) monthly intervals will be subject to the receipt, from the Applicant, of satisfactory project progress and financial reports. Members of FightMND team and Board will review progress reports to decide outcomes.

1.2. If the applicant under-spends in any year, FightMND can, at its discretion, give approval for the balance to be carried into the following year. Expenditure beyond the end date will only be permitted if authorised by FightMND in advance. Requests must be made by contacting FightMND at least eight weeks prior to the original completion date, by email to the FightMND Cure team at researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au.

1.3. The value of the Angie Cunningham PhD Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid Award is for \$70,000 per annum for a period of 3 years. The Scholarship component of the Award will cover the student stipend of \$40,000 per annum. The award will also cover research expenses directly attributable to the student's project as a Grant-in-Aid to the value of \$30,000 per annum, and up to \$10,000 over the 3-year duration of the PhD Candidature towards the cost of relevant conference attendance by the PhD candidate.

1.4. FightMND will not meet indirect or overhead costs or on-costs of the Administering Institution, such as: general travel, finance services, staff facilities, staff development, public relations, institutional libraries, routine secretarial work, personnel services, stationery or contributions to general departmental costs, and publication costs (except for those necessary to enable open access for publications).

1.5. Conference attendance: FightMND will allow up to \$10,000 over the 3-year duration of the PhD Candidature towards the cost of relevant conference attendance by the PhD candidate. This may be used during the life of the project towards the costs of registration fees and travel, but not to cover separate hotel accommodation or other subsistence costs. Invoices, receipts or other evidence of spending must be provided. The PhD candidate is encouraged to present their work, and is expected to attend and present at one relevant meeting per year.

1.6. Payment of instalments is conditional on receipt and approval of satisfactory project progress and financial reports (see Terms and Conditions 1.1 and 15.1).

1.7. Funding from other sources: financial support for clearly defined aspects of a project from separate funding sources is permitted under FightMND grants. Such supplementary funding must be disclosed at the time of the grant application or at the time such funding is received.

2. EQUIPMENT

2.1. FightMND will not fund any equipment purchase as part of a FightMND grant .

3. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to have ethics approval for all or part of the planned research. This should ideally be in place at the time of applying for funding.

3.2. Approvals must be received, and copies provided to FightMND upon request, prior to the Grant commencing.

4. PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE PROJECT

4.1. It is expected that the Applicant will be actively engaged in directing the project. Continued use of FightMND funds during a prolonged absence of the Applicant requires written agreement to continue the research under the direction of another qualified Investigator, ideally obtained prior to the absence. The Applicant or an approved representative of the Administering Institution must apply to and notify FightMND by email to the FightMND Cure team at researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au, with an explanation of the situation, providing details of the arrangements for conducting the research during their absence (see Terms and Conditions 11.2).

5. RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF

5.1. FightMND does not act as an employer and, therefore, in all cases where financial support is provided for the employment of staff, the Administering institution undertakes to issue a contract of employment in accordance with any other relevant Act relating to the conditions of employment.

5.2. FightMND will not be responsible for claims under statute or at common law, nor will they indemnify the Administering institution against a claim for compensation or against any claims for which the Institution may be liable as an employer or otherwise.

6. STAFF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The Administering institution must accept full responsibility for:

6.1. The management, monitoring and control for all staff (permanent, temporary and students) employed or involved in any research funded by a FightMND Grant;

6.2. The management, monitoring and control of all research work funded as a result of a FightMND Grant.

7. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

7.1. If the tenure of the appointment of staff recruited to work on the FightMND supported project continues beyond the defined period of the Grant, the Administering institution will be solely responsible for all costs beyond the period of the Grant. FightMND accepts no liability for contracts and costs extending beyond the defined Grant period.

8. EMPLOYMENT TERM CONTRACTS

8.1. Where members of staff have been under contract to the Administering institution prior to the activation of the FightMND Grant, FightMND will not reimburse costs attributed to any prior commitment. This includes any redundancy payments due for service prior to the Grant period.

8.2. The contract of employment offered must not extend beyond the termination of the Grant (unless the Administering institution wishes to extend the contract at its own expense).

9. PARENTAL AND OTHER LONG-TERM LEAVE

9.1. The Administering institution will meet the cost of any long-term leave, other than holiday, and will ensure that all annual leave entitlement is taken within the Grant period. Long-term leave may include maternity, parental or long-term sick leave.

9.2. Parental leave is the responsibility of the Administering institution employing staff undertaking a FightMND-funded project. Leave will be provided according to the Administering Institution's local terms and conditions of employment. The costs of such leave are the responsibility of the Administering institution and are not provided for by FightMND.

9.3. If a FightMND-funded employee is due to take any planned long-term leave, the grant Primary Investigator should inform FightMND of the dates in advance. This will enable discussion to decide whether the Grant should be suspended for the period of absence until full-time employment can be resumed (see Terms and Conditions 4 and 11.2). If unplanned long-term leave occurs, the Grant Primary Investigator or an approved representative of the Administering Institution should contact FightMND by email to researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

10. ACTIVATION OF AN AWARDED FIGHTMND GRANT

10.1. FightMND Grants are activated on receipt of a signed Grant Agreement and receipt of the first invoice. If, for any reason, the start date of the project is delayed after the Grant Agreement has been returned, FightMND must be informed at once, a *Grant Agreement Deed of Variation* form completed, and a new start date agreed (see Terms and Conditions 11.2). If necessary, a revised Grant Agreement will need to be completed and returned.

10.2. If the project does not start within three (3) months of the original agreed start date, FightMND may withdraw the Grant offer. The Applicant and/or Administering Institution will have to reapply for funding in a future round, in competition with other applicants at the time.

10.3. Ethical Approval: FightMND must receive evidence that ethical approval (if required) is in place prior to the project starting. Payment of invoices will be delayed until evidence has been provided. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to have ethical approval for the proposed research and this should ideally be in place at the time of applying for funding.

11. CHANGE OF TERMS OF AN AWARDED FIGHTMND GRANT

11.1. Reallocation of funds from one expense heading of the approved budget to another, as detailed in the Grant Agreement, requires written permission from FightMND.

11.2. Grantees will be required to submit a letter to FightMND detailing any and all proposed changes to the project, and complete a *Grant Agreement Deed of Variation*. Letters/*Deeds of Variation* must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to the changes taking place, and submitted for approval to FightMND by email to the FightMND Cure team at researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au. FightMND must be kept informed at all times of any change to the original Grant and the Grant Agreement.

11.3. Any request for major changes in the terms of the Grant, e.g. for additional staff or budget items, must be made in the form of a new and separate grant application, which will be considered in competition with all other new applications.

12. CHANGES TO CONDITIONS OF AN AWARDED FIGHTMND GRANT

12.1. FightMND reserves the right to change the Terms and Conditions of FightMND Grants at any time. If this occurs during the lifetime of a Grant, the revised Terms and Conditions may be applied in place of those issued at the commencement of the Grant.

12.2. Successful Applicants will be given at least 8 weeks' notice of any change to conditions of the Grant.

13. EARLY TERMINATION OF AN AWARDED FIGHTMND GRANT

13.1. FightMND reserves the right to terminate the awarded Grant at any time. Circumstances which might lead to termination include:

- Any breach in the Terms and Conditions under which the Grant was made;
- If the Project has not started within three months of the agreed start date;
- The work is diverging markedly from the original approved project. The Applicant/Supervisor or an approved representative of the Administering Institution must inform FightMND immediately when they are aware of a change of direction (see Terms and Conditions 11.2). There may, however, be circumstances in which the change is acceptable on scientific grounds;
- Failure to submit adequate progress reports, or serious and unresolvable problems identified by a site visit; and
- Work has stopped on the Grant, or the Applicant/Supervisor has ceased to be actively involved in the project. FightMND must be informed immediately if the situation arises (see Terms and Conditions 11.2).

FightMND will endeavour to give 60 days' prior notice before termination of an Grant.

13.2. If a Grant is terminated, FightMND will meet costs properly and necessarily incurred under the Grant Agreement up to the termination date. However, payments will not, in aggregate, exceed the amount of the Grant remaining to be paid at the time of its termination.

13.3. In the event of work being discontinued by the Administering institution, written notification must be sent to FightMND, together with a report on the work carried out to date, setting out reasons for the termination.

14. EXTENSION TO AN AWARDED FIGHTMND GRANT

14.1. It is the responsibility of the Primary Investigator to apply for further support before the end of the Grant period, if this is required. Applications for an extension of support may be considered in isolation or as a new application in competition with other applications at the time of applying (see Terms and Conditions 11.2).

14.2. Adequate time (at least eight weeks), should be allowed for an application to be processed and FightMND accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred due to the failure of a grantee to make such an application in good time.

15. REPORTS

15.1. The Applicant/Supervisor in consultation with the PhD Candidate is required to submit the following reports:

- **Annual progress reports:** due every 12 months from the Grant start date, as stated on the executed Grant Agreement (see Terms and Conditions 1.1). A short summary in language intelligible to the lay reader should also be submitted for possible use in FightMND publications and on our website;
- **Final report:** required within twelve weeks after completion of the Grant project. A detailed final report covering the whole project will be substituted for the annual report. In addition, a summary should also be provided in language intelligible to the lay reader. Researchers must avoid the use of jargon and technical language and should pitch the

summary at the level of a science feature in a broadsheet newspaper. The summary may be used in FightMND publications; and

- **FightMND Research Symposium:** the PhD candidate is required to present progress of the project annually, and at the FightMND research symposium.

15.2. Instalments for the Grant will be paid only after receipt of progress reports and their approval by FightMND. Payment may be delayed if reports are not submitted on time and/or if clarification is required.

15.3. Thesis: in addition to the final report, FightMND must receive an electronic copy of the submitted and final versions of the Thesis, when available.

15.4. Feedback to people living with MND and/or Carers. All Grantees are encouraged to provide regular information on their research to be circulated by FightMND for patients and carers. Where volunteers are involved in research, Grantees are required to provide regular feedback to the participants and FightMND, in addition to annual reports and publications.

16. SITE VISITS AND PROGRESS MEETINGS

16.1. FightMND reserves the right to visit the Grantee's laboratory during the period of the Grant to discuss progress, and welcomes invitations to do so.

16.2. Grantees may be asked to attend six-monthly progress meetings to discuss progress with FightMND representatives and donors. These may be arranged in conjunction with site visits.

16.3. Grantees may be asked to take part in FightMND communication projects such as video content to help facilitate feedback to FightMND's donors on outcomes related to the Grant.

17. PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND PUBLICITY

17.1. Grantees are expected to seek publication of findings in refereed journals during and as soon as possible during and after conclusion of the Grant project (subject to Term and Condition 18). FightMND and the grantee and/or Administering Institution jointly undertake to notify each other before published reference is made to the findings of the project, and to discuss the form of publication wherever possible.

17.2. Grantees and/or the Administering Institution must inform FightMND immediately when results from FightMND-funded research are accepted for publication or presentation. The Grantee and/or Administering Institution must provide FightMND with reprints, photocopies or electronic copies of the final version of any such publications.

17.3. **Open Access Policy:** Grantees are mandated to make their peer-reviewed papers, directly arising from the Grant, available through open access. These research papers should be available within the PubMed Central repository as soon as possible, but definitely within six months of publication. Costs to enable open access for publications can be included in the project budget.

17.4. **Posters – costs and accessibility:** If FightMND-funded research is accepted for presentation as a poster, the costs of poster production may be claimed as part of the consumables budget (to a maximum of \$500 per Grant). The poster must acknowledge FightMND as a source of funding and should include FightMND's logo. FightMND should be provided with an electronic copy of the poster for use on our website and social media.

17.5. To ensure the long-term sustainability of income for research and to reflect and maintain our reputation for funding research of the highest scientific excellence and of greatest relevance to MND, all opportunities to promote FightMND must be pursued. The Grantee and the Administering institution are obliged to co-operate with FightMND over any publicity or

fundraising activity arising from research funded by FightMND. Where it is the main funder of the research, FightMND reserves the right to lead on publicity.

17.6. Grantees and/or the Administering institution must notify the FightMND Cure Research and Programs Director, Dr Bec Sheean by email to bec.sheean@fightmnd.org.au, the FightMND Cure team at researchgrants@fightmnd.org.au, and the Marketing and Communications Director at marketing@fightmnd.org.au, at least five working days in advance of any publicity arising from research wholly or co-funded by a FightMND Grant. FightMND must be given at least 24 hours' notice of any media release in connection with the funded project. Any press release or other material including reference to FightMND-funded research must be approved by our team before it is released to the media.

17.7. In any oral or written report or poster presentation relating to FightMND-funded research, the Grantee and/or author must acknowledge FightMND's support and display the FightMND logo where practical. All references to FightMND-funded work placed on websites, electronic bulletin boards and similar platforms must state clearly that the work is funded by "FightMND" and ideally a link should be included to the FightMND website: www.fightmnd.org.au.

17.8. Grantees must ensure that FightMND's support is acknowledged in all publications, presentations and similar communications. It is essential for Grantees to acknowledge that their research has been supported wholly or in part by FightMND, either in the text or in a footnote. The Grant reference/ID must also be provided.

17.9. When speaking publicly and to representatives of the media about FightMND-funded research, Grantees and Researchers should ensure they make it clear to the media and others that they should be presented as a "FightMND-funded scientist". Researchers should consult with FightMND's Cure Research and Programs Director, Dr Bec Sheean. at bec.sheean@fightmnd.org.au and Marketing and Communications Director at marketing@fightmnd.org.au, before speaking to the media.

17.10. There is a subtle but important difference between speaking as a "FightMND-funded scientist" and acting as a spokesperson for FightMND. Representatives of the media may not always be aware of this difference. Grantees and Researchers who speak to the media must ensure that their personal views are not misrepresented as being attributable to FightMND.

18. PATENTS, COPYRIGHT AND OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

18.1. If ideas, processes or products of potential commercial value are generated as a result of the project, the Applicant and/or Administering Institution must obtain the written consent of FightMND before taking any steps to exploit the results commercially. The Applicant and Administering Institution accepts that FightMND may require a share of financial gain in return for its consent. This restriction shall continue to bind the parties notwithstanding any termination of the Grant. For further detail, please see Appendix 1 – Intellectual property rights and commercial activities.

19. FIGHTMND MEETINGS AND EVENTS

19.1. Grantees are asked to make themselves or other appropriate research team members available to report on the Project and Grant at FightMND meetings, fundraising events and occasionally at other times by invitation.

19.2. There may be occasions where the Grantee or other appropriate research team members will be asked to present their work relating to the Grant project at scientific and/or health care professionals' meetings.

19.3. When speaking and presenting at FightMND events, Grantees or other appropriate research team members are expected to make it clear in the presentation their funding connection with FightMND.

20. FIGHTMND CASE STUDIES

20.1. Grantees are asked to make themselves available as case studies reflecting the work of FightMND for its wide-ranging communications and fundraising activities.

21. SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

21.1. In the rare event of scientific fraud occurring, FightMND wishes to make it clear that it is the responsibility of the employing authority to investigate any suspected case of fraudulent activity. FightMND agrees to provide funding providing the employing authority can produce evidence of a procedure for dealing with scientific fraud. If fraud should be proven, the Grant must be repaid in full to FightMND forthwith.

22. INDEMNITY

22.1. FightMND does not provide cover for negligent or non-negligent harm for participants in FightMND-funded studies. The Administering institution should ensure that local arrangements are in place should claims arise.

APPENDIX 1

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

As a charity, FightMND is obliged to ensure that the outcomes of its funded research are applied for the public benefit. In some circumstances, this obligation may be best achieved through the protection of intellectual property resulting from the research and the facilitation of commercial exploitation of this intellectual property.

The term 'intellectual property' (IP) describes any work or invention that results from original creative thought.

IP falls into different categories:

- Copyright: protects written, dramatic and artistic work, software, films, sound recordings and broadcasts.
- Patents: protects technical inventions, novel products or processes.
- Trademarks: distinguish the goods and services of one organisation from another.
- Design rights: protects the visual appearance of products.

Some of these protections need to be registered (trademarks, patents) and some do not (copyright, design rights). If the IP is not protected, another individual or organisation may copy the design or commercialise and sell the new invention without consent or payment.

Therefore, for grants where FightMND funding may lead to the generation of intellectual property, the following additional conditions shall apply:

1.1. Any intellectual property developed during the course of conducting research supported by FightMND Grants under this agreement (Project IP) shall be owned by the Administering Institution.

1.2. The Administering Institution must comply with the National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research by having in place strategies, policies, and procedures for the identification, protection, management, and exploitation of intellectual property, including that resulting from funding by charities such as FightMND.

<http://www.arc.gov.au/national-principles-intellectual-property-management-publicly-funded-research>

1.3. The Administering Institution should ensure that all persons in receipt of funding from FightMND, or working on funded activity (including employees, students, visiting staff and sub-contractors), are employed or retained on terms that vest in the institution all intellectual property arising from funding by FightMND.

1.4. The Administering Institution, grant holders and co-Investigators should inform FightMND of any pre-existing arrangements of which they are aware and which could lead to a breach of FightMND-funded standard conditions. The institution should take reasonable endeavours to ensure that no consultancies, third party restrictions or arrangements which might impact on a FightMND-funded grant are entered into in relation to any FightMND-funded person or activity without prior agreement of FightMND. FightMND-funded investigators or individuals involved in a FightMND-funded project should not use materials or compounds (other than those obtained commercially), on terms which would place restrictions on the publication of the results. Institutions should take reasonable endeavours to ensure that "reach-through claims" have not

been granted on any FightMND-funded IP in favour of commercial organisations providing materials or compounds to FightMND-funded individuals for research purposes. However, FightMND recognises that companies providing materials may often require exclusive rights to any intellectual property arising from use of that material, and that this requirement is often non-negotiable. Where intellectual property arises from research linked indirectly to the use of material provided under such agreement, the provider should be offered a time-limited opportunity to take out a revenue generating licence.

1.5. The Administering Institution and the grant holders are bound to notify FightMND promptly in writing when new Project IP arises from the Grant and take reasonable steps to ensure that such IP is protected and not published or otherwise disclosed publicly prior to protection (whilst at the same time ensuring that potential delays in publication are minimised).

1.6. The Administering Institution should seek FightMND's consent to commercially exploit the results of any research it has funded. Consent will not be unreasonably withheld, and FightMND will only refuse an Administering Institution's request where it considers that the proposed commercial exploitation would run counter to its interests and charitable objectives. In the event that FightMND does not provide a response to the Administering Institution's request within thirty (30) business days, the institution or its technology transfer subsidiary will automatically have the right to proceed with such commercial exploitation. The Administering Institution is not required to seek FightMND's consent in assigning intellectual property to its technology transfer company.

1.7. Within thirty (30) business days of receiving the notification from the Administering Institution, and prior to the Administering Institution applying for registration of any Project IP, FightMND will advise the Administering Institution in writing which one of the following financial arrangements will apply in relation to commercialisation of the Project IP:

- I. All of the costs associated with commercialising of the Project IP (including patent and legal costs) will be paid by the Administering Institution. Out of any net proceeds received by the Administering Institution from commercialising the Project IP (after all of the Administering Institution's costs associated with commercialising the Project IP have first been deducted), the Administering Institution will pay 10% of all net commercialisation proceeds to FightMND until such time as FightMND has received an amount equal to the amount of the Grant funding provided under this agreement multiplied by five (5).
- II. Ten per cent (10%) of the costs associated with commercialising the Project IP (including patent and legal costs) will be paid by FightMND as and when the costs fall due, and the remaining 90% of the commercialisation costs will be paid by the Administering Institution. Out of any net proceeds received by the Administering Institution from commercialising the Project IP (after all the Administering Institution's costs associated with commercialising the Project IP have first been deducted and FightMND's costs have been reimbursed), the Administering Institution will pay 10% of all net commercialisation proceeds to FightMND in perpetuity.
- III. FightMND will not seek any payment from the net commercialisation proceeds arising from commercialisation of the Project IP.

1.8. If the Administering Institution does not wish to protect, manage or exploit the IP, or fails to comply with the agreed strategy, FightMND may direct the Administering Institution to take steps to protect the IP at the Administering Institution's expense or to transfer the IP to FightMND.

1.9. If the Administering institution wishes to use any third party (other than its recognised technology transfer company) to carry out its obligations with respect to IP, it must notify and provide details to FightMND.

INSERT REVIEW CRITERIA TABLES HERE