# The Gordon Aikman Scholarship Scheme – a commemoration of the Scottish campaigner for Motor Neurone Disease.

The scholarship scheme to fund improvements in motor neurone disease (MND) care, set up by the Scottish Government in partnership with MND Scotland in honour of Scottish campaigner, Gordon Aikman, is now announcing its second call for applications.

***The aim of the Scholarship Scheme is to make improvement(s) to MND care through research and practical projects into new and better care.***

The scholarship will support individuals and professionals to develop, implement and evaluate practical interventions to improve the quality of life of people affected by MND. This may be through travel to identify best practice and/or using improvement and research approaches to test the impact and suitability of interventions for people with MND. This would include non-medicine based interventions such as specialised physiotherapy techniques, non-medicalised assisted breathing techniques etc.

The Scottish Government and MND Scotland’s joint funding will be **£50,000** with the proviso that all funded learning is shared across Scotland, including presentation at an ‘end of award’ event. The Scottish Government and MND Scotland are especially committed to learning from those affected by MND and their carers, and it is anticipated that a significant amount of this resource will be invested in funding a project led by those with MND and their carers.

The scholarship scheme will accept applications from registered Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHPs) working and domiciled in Scotland, **and** from those affected by MND and their carers who are living in Scotland.

The scheme will be administered by the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit (NMAPH RU) at the University of Stirling but scholarships are expected to be hosted by any NHS or Higher Education Institution (HEI) organisation in Scotland, or by **MND Scotland** for those affected by MND and their carers.

**An additional amount up to £1k is also available from MND Scotland (on application) to fund dissemination activities (e.g. conference attendance, travel, organising additional workshops).**

**The closing date for applications is 31st August, 2018.**

**An application form and guidance is available on the NMAHP Research Unit website:** [**www.nmahp-ru.ac.uk**](http://www.nmahp-ru.ac.uk/)

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## The NMAHP Scholarship Scheme

**A maximum of £25k** will be provided for an NMAHP led clinical implementation/research project to enhance evidence based improvements in MND care. **Two types of award are available:**

* **Part-time Research Fellowship to undertake** a small scale research study (such as a systematic review, research priority setting consensus exercise, intervention development, or small feasibility or pilot study); or with the aim of implementing and evaluating/monitoring new or innovative care practices for those with MND; or implementing at-scale, and monitoring, existing evidence based care improvement interventions.
* **Education and Travel Scholarship to** fund travel out-with Scotland where there are opportunities to learn from others developing or implementing evidence based interventions for improving the care of those living with MND. This must be accompanied with some form of research/evaluation/implementation study as above.

***Applicants m***ust • have previous research experience (Masters in Research, PhD, Clinical Doctorate, **OR** similar substantial research experience) • be currently employment in the NHS or in a HEI in Scotland • have a supporting NHS or HEI prepared to administer and account for the funding received • be able to demonstrate current availability of time for research.

Registered NMAHPs living in Scotland but not currently employed by the NHS or a HEI may be considered **if** the necessary HEI/NHS supporting framework is in place prior to application.

* For applicants employed by the NHS, the pro-rata NHS salary up to Agenda for Change Band 7 will be available to enable appointment of a replacement.
* For applicants employed by a formal/registered care delivery organisation the pro-rata salary not exceeding the equivalent of an NHS Agenda for Change Band 7 will be available to enable appointment of a replacement.
* For applicants employed by an HEI funding will support additional research time (buy-out) over and above 1 day for research that the current host institution is assumed to already provide.
* For applicants currently on a non-permanent contract funding will be up to the equivalent of the WTE and time specified for that scheme.
* Directly incurred research costs can be included but not organisational overheads/indirect costs.
* A final report (up to 5,000 words) including a financial statement will be expected.

## The Person with MND/Carer Award Scheme

**A maximum of £25k** to support a practical project to improve the lives of people affected by MND and conducted by those affected by MND and/or their carers. This can include developing practical ways in which health and social care staff can improve the lives of those with MND and their carers **OR** can include developing or implementing practical improvements for those affected by MND. Projects will be hosted and supported by MND Scotland but can also include HEI partners offering additional support to projects. Ideas for these practical projects will be developed by those with MND and/or their carers with support from MND Scotland which will take forward these ideas: through implementation of existing practical supports; or development of new ideas for practical support. A project summary and financial statement will be expected on completion.

**A national dissemination event will be held on completion of both awards.**