

ME Awareness Day 2025

Webinar Event

Understanding ME





Tuesday, 27 May 2025
Start at 6:00 pm (Qld time)

Program

Speaker	Time	Length	Topic
Opening			
Dr Stanley Du Preez, MD	06:00 pm	10 min	Welcome. Acknowledgement to country. Housekeeping
Presentations			
Dr Daniel Missailidis, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postdoctoral cell biologist • Research Fellow • Department of Microbiology, Anatomy, Physiology & Pharmacology La Trobe University • Research using multiple cell types and body systems to search for mechanisms or biomarkers of ME to improve outcomes for affected people, with a particular emphasis on energy metabolism and more recently the immune system 	06:10 pm	20 min	Investigating cellular and body-wide features of ME <p>Since there are no effective treatments for all people with ME and no effective biomarkers in clinical use, determining the biological features of ME and understanding how they might inform new treatments or diagnostic tests is a priority. To work towards these goals, our laboratory at La Trobe University studies immune and skin cells from people with ME and compares them to unaffected people.</p> <p>We've identified cellular disturbances and are working on understanding the relationships between these changes which will help pinpoint the "original" disturbances - which we hope might be targets for treatments or act as biomarkers.</p> <p>We are also embarking upon a new study co-designed with representatives from the ME community, examining various aspects of immune function, body-wide metabolism, gut micro-organisms and metabolism. In combination with a machine-learning drug discovery pipeline we hope</p>

			that this biological profiling study will identify new avenues for study and potential treatments targets.
Q & A	6:30 pm	10 min	
Dr Kiran Thapaliya, PhD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Fellow at • National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED) Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus, QLD, Australia • Focuses research using a multi-modal MRI approach to develop new neuroimaging methods to identify potential biomarkers in Myalgic encephalomyelitis / chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and Long COVID condition. 	6:40 pm	40 min	NCNED Research Update on ME and Long COVID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRPM3 dysfunction and immune impairment are observed in both ME and Long COVID. • Low-Dose Naltrexone restores TRPM3 function in individuals with ME/CFS and Long COVID. • Brain alterations are present in both ME and Long COVID. • Quality of life is significantly impaired in individuals with ME and Long COVID. • NCNED is also running a clinical trial for long COVID. The clinical trial for ME will commence soon.
Q & A	7:20 pm	10 min	
Closing			
Dr Stanley Du Preez, MD	7:30 pm	10 min	Closing Speech

Presenters

Presenter	Bio
Host	
Dr Stanley Du Preez 	<p>Stanley is the volunteer Community Coordinator for ME Group Australia (MEGA).</p> <p>His commitment to patients extends into his work as a resident medical officer with Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service and as a PhD candidate with the National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases investigating ME. He is also involved in educating future doctors as a clinical lecturer with Griffith University School of Medicine.</p> <p>Stanley is passionate about improving outcomes for people with ME through clinical medicine, research, education, and advocacy. His goal is to become a specialist in immunology and engage other healthcare providers to support ME patients through safe and effective evidence-based care.</p>
Dr Daniel Missailidis, PhD 	<p>Dr Daniel Missailidis is a postdoctoral research fellow and molecular biologist at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia.</p> <p>Daniel has researched ME since 2016 and completed his PhD in 2021, having published 11 research papers on ME or Long COVID to date. During his research Daniel has met and been invited into the homes of countless people with ME and has developed a passion for contributing to positive outcomes for people with ME or similar, neglected conditions. It is with this understanding of what people are going through every day that Daniel continues his biological research with urgency.</p> <p>Daniel currently works in the Annesley Molecular Cell Biology laboratory (a true team effort!!) and is involved in projects that investigate many different cell types or body systems to look for potential treatment targets and prospective biomarkers for ME in the hope of improving outcomes for affected people.</p>

Dr Kiran Thapaliya, PhD



Dr. Kiran Thapaliya is working as a Research Fellow in the area of Neuroimaging at the National Centre for Neuroimmunology and Emerging Diseases (NCNED), Griffith University.

His research focuses on investigating brain impairment in ME/CFS and long COVID patients using multi-modal MRI and developing new neuroimaging methods to identify biomarkers for ME/CFS and long COVID.



**Myalgic
Encephalomyelitis**
Group Australia



Website: megrouppaustralia.org.au
Email: Info@megrouppaustralia.org.au
ABN: 36 649 612 233