



Our Stop MS Appeal research story

Research has got us to a critical point, and we can see a future where nobody needs to worry about their MS getting worse. But we need to act now, because people with MS can't wait.

By 2025, we plan to be in the final stages of testing a range of treatments for everyone with MS.

To fund this essential research we need to raise £100 million over ten years.

With what we know, we can drastically reduce the impact of MS, so everyone can live their lives with more certainty and hope for the future.

A leading voice in MS research, Professor Alasdair Coles from the University of Cambridge, says:

"I firmly believe we can change the outlook of MS. I hope in 10 years' time, upon diagnosis, a person will be given a handful of pills to tackle all the various elements, and they will be offered hope that their life will be minimally affected by the condition."

What has led up to this point?

There are over a dozen licensed treatments for people with relapsing forms of MS, and some emerging for early active progressive MS. But there are still lots of people without treatment. Treatments that do exist only work on one aspect of MS: the immune system.

To help people at every stage of MS we need to stop MS progression.

Stopping progression

Research in recent years has transformed our understanding of progression and how the body responds to MS damage. Learning exactly what goes wrong in MS is enabling us to develop strategies to stop that from happening.

Two critical things we have learned

Myelin damage

When myelin is damaged it stops our nerves working properly. Messages from the brain and spinal cord to the rest of the body are disrupted, resulting in the many varied symptoms of MS.

Nerve loss

Once a nerve cell is lost it can't be replaced, although our brain will try to manage without it. To slow or stop progression, we need to develop treatments that protect the nerves from further damage.

Research has led to major advances in our understanding of MS. This means treatments that slow or stop disability for everyone with MS, including those with all progressive forms of the condition, are now a very real prospect.

What's our plan to stop MS?

We are translating what we know about stopping immune attacks, repairing myelin, and protecting nerves into ways to find treatments that slow or stop MS progressing.

Three steps to Stop MS

1. Stop immune attacks

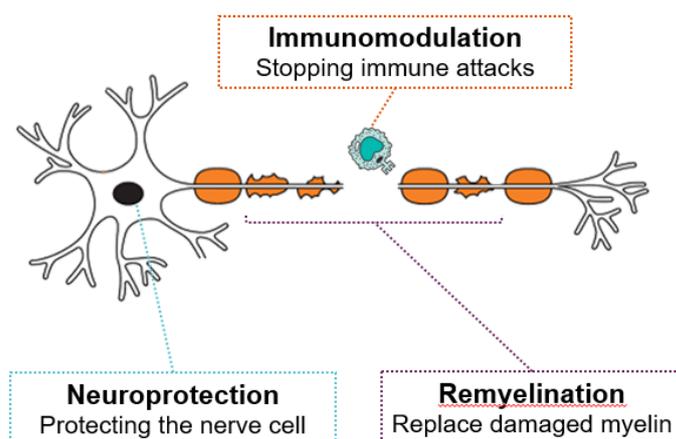
The initial immune system attack is what damages myelin and causes the symptoms of relapsing MS. This is what existing disease modifying therapies (DMTs) focus on.

2. Repair myelin

Our researchers have identified ways for the brain to repair myelin. We are working to translate these discoveries into a potential treatment that can be taken into clinical trials.

3. Protect nerves from damage

We now know more about how nerves are damaged in MS, and can look into potential new drug targets to keep nerves strong and resilient.



Where will the funds we raise go?

We can see a future where nobody needs to worry about MS getting worse. The money we raise will fund critical research projects including:

- A first-of-its-kind MS clinical trials platform to test and deliver effective treatments for people with progressive MS as quickly as possible. This is currently being designed and developed by an Expert Consortium of the brightest minds in science.
- Funding more innovative and groundbreaking projects in the UK through our responsive grant round and fellowships that support the best MS researchers
- Supporting vital research infrastructure and programmes like the MS Society Tissue Bank, the MS Society Cambridge Centre for Myelin Repair, the MS Society Edinburgh Centre for MS Research, and the UK MS Register

Is it going to work?

We have all the elements we need to make this work. We've worked tirelessly with leading scientists to define our ambitions for this appeal. So we're confident that, with the right investment, we can revolutionise MS treatment. By the year 2025 we will have new treatments for progressive MS in end stage clinical trials.

We believe with our investment that MS treatment in the future will look completely different. People with MS will be prescribed not just one treatment, but a combination of therapies that work on multiple aspects of the condition, stopping immune attacks and relapses, protecting nerves from damage, and regenerating lost myelin.

The Stop MS Appeal could change what it means to live with MS.

Why now?

We have now reached a tipping point where treatment breakthroughs are within our grasp. After decades of research we can see a future where nobody has to worry about MS getting worse.

To change the lives of people living with MS today, we must invest in research now.

We believe we can Stop MS, and you can help.