A World Without MND Webinar

Speaker Bios

Chair

Professor Dominic Rowe | Professor, Neurology | Macquarie Medical School

Professor Rowe is the Foundation Professor of Neurology in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Macquarie University; Chairman of Macquarie Neurology, and Consultant Neurologist at Macquarie University Hospital. For ten years he was Chairman of the MND Research Institute of Australia, taking this funding body from minor influence to the major source of funding for MND research in Australia. He is the Principal Investigator on the Parkinson’s Progression Marker Initiative, responsible for the only Australian site in this groundbreaking collaborative research in PD. Together with Professor Kiernan and others, he founded the Australian Motor Neurone Disease Registry.

For the last nine years he has been instrumental in the set-up and implementation of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Macquarie University. Professor Rowe was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2012 Queen’s Birthday Honour List for services to Medicine and Neurology, particularly Motor Neurone Disease and Parkinson’s. Professor Rowe is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists, International Movement Disorder Society, and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He is a Chairman of Neurology at Macquarie University Hospital and the founder of Macquarie Neurology; an adult neurology practice that performs more than 10,000 patient episodes per year. Macquarie Neurology manages the care of more than 200 patients with MND, 600 patients with Parkinson’s and 100 patients with Multiple Sclerosis

Panel

Dr Kelly Williams | Co-Director of Research | Macquarie Medical School

Associate Professor Williams is Head of Genomics & Bioinformatics within the multidisciplinary Centre for Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Research at Macquarie University. Since the completion of her PhD in 2013, she has received two fellowships for genetics and genomics research into MND (3-year MNDRA Bill Gole Postdoctoral Fellowship and 4-year NHMRC Early Career Research Fellowship). As one of Australia’s leading early career researchers in MND, she was recruited as a founding member of the Macquarie University Centre for MND Research.

Most of her academic career has focused on determining the genetic basis of motor neuron disease. She has played a central role in critical breakthroughs in MND through the identification of causal mutations in several genes. These seminal discoveries have opened new chapters in MND and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) research and have led to key insights into the pathology of these diseases. Her research has directly translated into clinical practice with these disease genes now added to diagnostic tests worldwide, including preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and pre-symptomatic testing.
Professor Stuart Grieve is an academic Radiologist and Imaging Scientist with a career focus of improving patient outcomes using imaging. He is currently the Parker Hughes Professor of Radiology at the University of Sydney and a consultant radiologist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He also holds clinical appointments at Macquarie University, Sydney Adventist and Epworth Hospitals. He is the leader of the Imaging and Phenotyping Laboratory at the Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney.

He specialises in cardiac, neurological and vascular imaging from basic research to active clinical care. Prof Grieve’s clinical engagement is primarily focused on neuroimaging, thoracic and cardiovascular imaging at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital as well as other centres important for research, pushing a dual focus of clinical excellence and translational research.

His work spans basic science, computational methods, clinical trials, clinical translation and strong partnerships with the healthcare industry, partnering with leading companies such as Edwards, Siemens and GE to pursue more accurate “digital” strategies to better manage heart disease. His research program integrates imaging, physics, biology and computational advances to find better ways to measure disease.

He completed a BSc (Hons I) at the USYD in 1996 in Biochemistry, followed by DPhil in Magnetic Resonance Imaging at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship from 1996-2000. He then undertook two post-doctoral fellowships at Oxford in high-field NMR and high-field cardiac MRI before returning to Australia to continue his research and to undertake clinical training. He completed an MBBS(Hons) in 2006, then residency and Radiology Specialist training at RPAH between 2007-2012. He is a leader of basic and translational imaging research across the University of Sydney, the Australian imaging community as well as overseas.