What are the environmental risk factors for MND?

Scientists at Macquarie University are searching to find the cause of, and potential cure for motor neuron disease (MND) and you can help. As part of our research, we need more data and biological samples for the Neurodegenerative Disease Biobank.

WHAT IS THE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE BIOBANK?
The biobank is a collection of biological samples and clinical, lifestyle and environmental data. It is a valuable resource for researchers to increase their understanding of the causes of neurodegenerative disease.

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN CHOSEN?
The causes of MND are thought to be a combination of environmental, lifestyle and genetic factors. Some research studies suggest that the incidence of MND for people in rural areas is greater than the national average. We would like to establish if there are unique environmental or lifestyle factors that may play some part in the onset of MND.

WHO IS LEADING THIS RESEARCH?
Macquarie’s Professor Gilles Guillemin is an internationally recognised leader for research into neurodegenerative diseases. He and his team are working to identify and understand how environmental exposure from toxic materials – such as pesticides, biotoxins and metals – and lifestyle factors may contribute to MND.

HOW CAN I HELP?
People aged 18+ are invited to donate biological samples and to complete a lifestyle and environmental risk factor questionnaire for the biobank. Contact us using the details below and we will send you a package containing detailed instructions on how to collect and submit your sample. You will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions. Any information you disclose will be kept in strict confidence.
This study has been reviewed and given ethical approval by the Macquarie University HREC (Medical Sciences) under application number S201600387.