



THE FREEMASONS'
GRAND CHARITY

CASE STUDY

Motor Neurone Disease Association

£50,000 for research into Motor Neurone Disease

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is a devastating, progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks the upper and lower motor neurones. Degeneration of the motor neurones leads to weakness and wasting of muscles, causing increasing loss of mobility in the limbs, and difficulties with speech, swallowing and breathing. There is currently no cure for MND.

In 2009, £50,000 was granted for research undertaken at the University of Sheffield to determine how to improve the quality of life and length of survival for people living with motor neurone disease. The researchers are working to create a cough-assist mechanical in-exsufflator MI-E device, which will establish whether the machine can offer life-saving health benefits and reduce the trauma of illness, hospital stays and physiotherapy.

MND leaves people trapped inside their body, unable to walk, talk or feed themselves. As the muscles around the chest deteriorate they find it difficult to breathe and lose the ability to even cough, a vital tool to keep our airways clear and keep chest infections at bay. Without this ability people with MND are at serious risk of developing repeated infections, leading to respiratory failure and hospitalisation.

A device called a cough assist that can help people cough may hold the key to improving quality of life for people with MND and reduce stays in hospital admissions. If this study proves the device is effective it could offer people with MND a new way to help with this most distressing of symptoms, meaning the time they have left is spent as comfortably as possible at home with friends and family, not ill in hospital.



Patrick Joyce and Family © MND Association

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated £125,000 to the MND Association since 1981

In 2005 the Grand Charity awarded the MND Association two grants totalling £50,000.

The money helped to finance a three-year project entitled 'Cdk5 signalling and disruption to the Golgi apparatus in Motor Neurone Disease'.

An investigation was made into whether or not a chemical imbalance in a complex piece of cellular machinery called the Golgi apparatus causes motor neurones to degenerate. Disruption of the Golgi apparatus is one of the earliest signs that motor neurones are malfunctioning.

For more information on the Motor Neurone Disease Association please visit:
www.mndassociation.org



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