



MND DNA Bank

February 2011 Newsletter

The DNA Bank has been set up to help look for genetic susceptibilities to Motor Neuron Disease

Lorel Adams, Manager

Roger Pamphlett, Supervisor

The DNA Bank moves into its next phase

The first phase of the DNA Bank, the collection of samples, is coming to an end in June this year, when NHMRC funding of sample collection ceases. The Bank will then move into its second phase, the promotion of collaborative research projects with national and international teams who need access to DNA samples from MND patients.

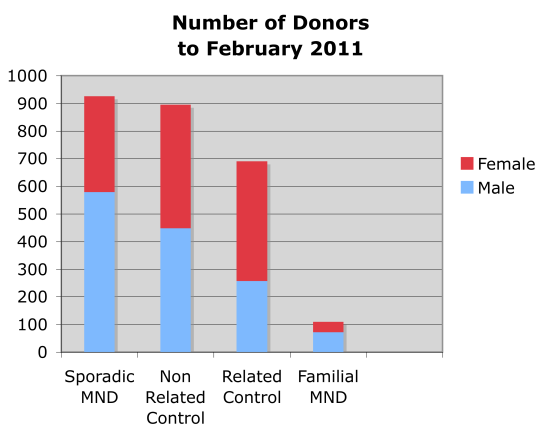
To donate samples this year

May 2011 will be the last month that we will be collecting samples for the Bank.

- For dates and locations of collection meetings organized by MNDAs until May, please phone 02 9036-5456.
- Pathology collectors can take samples in their rooms or on home visits.
- Samples and questionnaires can be sent via courier or mail from anywhere in Australia.

Samples presently in the Bank

There are now over 2,700 MND and control samples in the Bank.



Using the samples

Any researchers who are studying genetically-related causes of MND may apply to the Bank for DNA samples.

Ongoing projects using DNA from the Bank

- A group at the ANZAC Research Institute at the University of Sydney continues to look for new genetic mutations that underlie familial MND.
- A group at the Pathology Department at the University of Sydney are looking at the possibility that too many or too few copies of genes may underlie sporadic MND. They are also looking (with collaborators at Washington University) for newly-arising mutations that may underlie sporadic MND, by comparing the DNA in patients with that of their parents, as well as between twins.

Staff update

Dr Natasha Luquin (pictured in red gown at her PhD graduation) is now undertaking postdoctoral neuroscience work in Spain. Natasha helped the Bank and used samples for a number of her projects. With her (on her right) are Roger Pamphlett and Lorel Adams, and (on her left) Stephen Kum Jew.



The University of Sydney's Department of Pathology and Department of Molecular and Clinical Genetics supply the infrastructure for this NHMRC-funded Bank.