

FightMND Research Grants: *Guidelines for grant reporting*

Regular reporting is a requirement of all FightMND Research Grant recipients and will be used to assess the satisfactory progress of projects and to determine if funds are being used in accordance with the project proposal. Funds may be suspended if progress is considered to be unsatisfactory or if funds have not been used in accordance with the awarded research application budget and grant agreement. The reporting schedule is outlined in the following table.

REPORT	REPORTING FREQUENCY	DUE
Progress against pre-determined milestones and/or targets	6-monthly	Every 6 months from receipt of funds
Financial reports (to be included in progress report)	Annually	Every 12 months from receipt of funds
Site visit (donor communications and progress update)	Annually	Date to be agreed upon within 12 months of receiving funds
Final Report	Once only	At project completion
Ad hoc reports	As requested by FightMND	On request with a negotiable time frame – not greater than six weeks
FightMND Research Symposium	Biennially	During FightMND research symposium

6-month reports

Each report should be no more than 3 pages and include a lay summary of the projects progress.

12-month reports

Reports should be an update (no more than 6 pages) on the progress of the project in the 12-month period, including details on any concerns/problems or potential changes in the project direction. This report must also include a lay summary, details of data presentations or publications, new IP and a financial report with a breakdown on financial spending for the 12-month period.

Site visit

FightMND’s Research Director and/or Research Coordinator will visit the site yearly to discuss project progress and to generate material for donor communications.

Final report

The final report is due at the completion of the project and should be an extensive description of the outcomes of the project, including financial expenditure and details of any IP, presentations and publications generated from the project.

Ad hoc reports

These reports are to be generated on request from FightMND and describe in detail reasons for unsatisfactory progress and failure to meet milestones. Reports must present a revised Gantt chart detailing how researchers will ensure satisfactory progress.

FightMND Symposium

Presentation of project’s progress to scientific and lay audiences.

Report type: 6 Month Progress Report**Due Date:** 01/03/2024**Grant ID:** 18_2021_IMPACT_Atkin**Principal Investigator:** Prof Julie Atkin**Grant Title:** EC-FUS - A novel biomarker for MND examined using a unique antibody**Administering Institution:** Macquarie University**Date of Invoice****Has Principal Investigator scheduled site visit?**Yes No **Date of visit:****Lay summary of progress over the last 6 months (half a page max.).**

In this project we have been analysing patient serum samples compared to healthy controls for the presence of a unique form of one of the major MND pathological proteins. We are the first group in the world to identify this unique protein and we have developed a highly specialised tool (a new antibody) to monitor the protein biologically.

We have almost completed the analysis using one method but ideally we would like to complete optimisation using another, more clinically relevant, technique. Statistical analysis of the project will take a significant amount of time given the complexity of the clinical data. Thus we are requesting additional time to complete the project.

~50 word summary of progress to date suitable for: media release; communication by FightMND to donors and supporters via media channels; and sharing with people with lived MND experience.

We have been analysing MND patient serum samples compared to healthy controls in this project. We have almost completed the analysis using one method but ideally we would like to complete optimisation by another, more relevant technique for clinical samples.

Please list any new IP generated and/or any presentations or publications of data resulting from this award.

Please give details on the progress of each aim of the proposal over the last 6 months.

We request an additional 6 months to complete this project.

This is due to two reasons;

1. ELISA to detect EC-FUS.

We have continued to work on development of the EC-FUS ELISA because this is the most effective, accurate and clinically relevant technique to detect its presence in serum. However we are still optimising this protocol. We have determined that a sandwich ELISA is the best way to proceed and have tested four different canonical FUS capture antibodies for this purpose. Here, the aim was to capture FUS and EC-FUS with one antibody then detect EC-FUS from this sub-sample with our custom made anti-EC-FUS antibody. To date, one of the four canonical FUS capture antibodies has shown a reasonable dose-response curve. However, we want to improve the dynamic range further and aim to do this using a biotinylated EC-FUS antibody as the detector antibody. In this situation, we will use the unbiotinylated version as the capture antibody and the biotinylated antibody as the detector. We would also like to increase the sensitivity by using a SIMOA immunoassay platform (available at Macquarie), which is approximately 1000 times more sensitive than a custom plate assay for the ELISA.

To date, in this study, we are analysing all our serum samples using Western blotting to complete the project and this work is almost complete. However there is still a lot to do to demonstrate the usefulness of our anti-EC-FUS antibody, both in predicting disease and analysing its progression by ELISA.

(b) Statistical analyses of longitudinal samples from MND patients and controls.

It is important to note that due to the significant number of samples we have assessed in this study, statistical analysis at each stage of the project has proved time-consuming and complex. We estimate the final analyses of all the longitudinal samples will take 3-4 months alone due to the detailed (sub)analyses required.

Has project met milestones presented in proposal?

Yes

No

State how project has met/not met milestones.

Please state any problems/concerns that may result prevent the project from reaching the predicted milestones.

Please provide a brief summary of the project expenditure against budget and timelines at this stage of the project, including the amount of unspent funds.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Report type: 6 Month Progress Report

Date:

Grant ID: 18_2021_IMPACT_Atkin

Principal Investigator: Prof Julie Atkin

Grant Title: EC-FUS - A novel biomarker for MND examined using a unique antibody

Administering Institution: Macquarie University

Grant progress report:

Satisfactory

Review by CTAC

Unsatisfactory

Comments:

Progress report authorised by:

Name: _____ **Signed:** _____