

Invest in ME Research

June 2026 Newsletter



Twenty years ago, Invest in ME Research was founded on the belief that people with ME deserved serious biomedical science. This June, that belief was affirmed at the highest level when the WHO Regional Director for Europe opened our eighteenth international conference. This newsletter marks both that moment and the launch of our twentieth anniversary funding appeal.

WHO Europe Director Opens #IIMEC18



The **eighteenth** International ME Conference was opened with an address from **Dr Hans Kluge**, Regional Director of WHO Europe - a moment of significant recognition for the ME community and for the work of Invest in ME Research and the European ME Alliance.

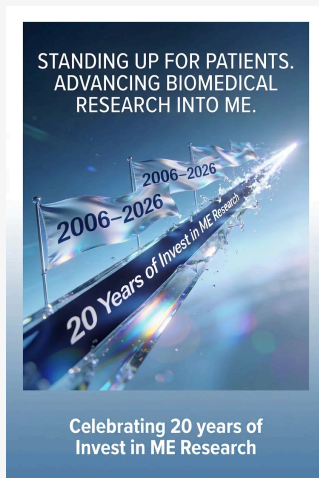
Dr Kluge affirmed that ME is a serious, complex, multi-system physical illness and stressed that people living with ME deserve to be believed, to

receive an accurate diagnosis, and to have access to appropriate care and support.

A WHO Regional Director opening an ME conference and recognising ME as a ***physical illness, involving neurological, immune, and metabolic dysfunction*** and calling on countries to adopt the neurological classification consistently, so that the true scale of the condition is properly recorded, is not something that happened by accident. It is the result of twenty years of sustained, credible, science-led advocacy.

[Read the Press Release/Watch Video](#)

20th Year Anniversary Funding Appeal



This anniversary year we are asking for support to secure the future of our postdoctoral research programme at the Centre of Excellence for ME at Norwich Research Park.

Two fellows are currently working at the Centre - Dr Katharine Seton, holder of the Ian Gibson Fellowship, and Dr Krishani Perera, holder of the Luna Nova Fellowship. Both built their expertise through liMER-funded programmes. Their continued work depends entirely on charitable donations.

We welcome all support to publicise this appeal, you can do so here.

[Read more](#)

International ME Conference Week 2026



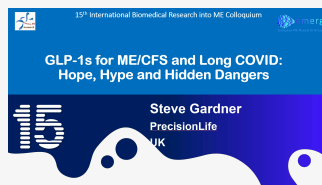
Speakers and delegates from over twenty countries attended this year's International ME Conference Week - five events over five days, the only five-day dedicated ME conference programme of its kind in the world.

From this year's events alone we have already identified at least **twenty** possible new research collaborations - and probably more. Each one represents a potential step forward for patients.

The conference week is entirely organised and delivered by volunteers. No large salaries. No government support or corporate infrastructure. Every penny dedicated to funding and facilitating biomedical research into ME.

As it has always been.

GLP-1 Colloquium Presentation Released



Due to the confidentiality rules behind the BRMEC* colloquia we rarely publish the recordings from these events, preferring to secure a safe environment for researchers to share freely embargoed or unpublished data and allow the collaborative nature of the events to be maintained.

This year PrecisionLife has given permission to publish the presentation from Steve Gardner, CEO of PrecisionLife, who was invited to speak in our Future Research Pathways session.

Steve was asked to speak about the potential, or not, of GLP-1 drugs for use in ME.

[Read more](#)



Cambridge in May

The Young EMERG two-day symposium was another success and again brought together early career ME researchers from across Europe and beyond, providing a dedicated space for the next generation of scientists to present their work, build connections, and develop the collaborations that will carry this field forward. More will appear on the Young EMERG web site. It is encouraging to see this network developing and the new insights from young researchers beginning to be inserted into mainline discussions and thinking. The young/early caeer researchers really are maturing into a great asset for the cause of research into ME.

[Read more](#)

Valencia in October!

We will keep this going as it is important for the future of research into ME.

The next Young EMERG workshop will take place in **Valencia** in October along with a meeting of the EMERG group. Further details will be announced shortly.

Looking Ahead to 2027



The response to this year's events was so positive that we have committed to next year. The International ME Conference Week 2027 will take place from 31 May to 4 June.

We envisage more events, more delegates, more research, and an increasing number of collaborations that will benefit patients and their carers. We welcome sponsors who wish to support next year's ambitious programme of international events. If any companies or organisations would like to discuss sponsorship, please contact us.

[Conference Week 2027](#)

New Summer Student Bursaries for 2026



Three candidates have been interviewed and offered placements at the Quadram Institute during the summer of 2026, as part of the Invest in ME Research Summer Student Bursary programme working with the Quadram Institute. These bursaries cover eight weeks of research activities in the lab and are designed to introduce the next generation of biomedical researchers to ME science and to build awareness of the field amongst undergraduate students.

[Read more](#)

Journal of IIMER



With the conference we also published the latest Journal of liMER - free to all delegates.

The Journal is also available on the web site, along with all previous copies.

[Read more](#)

European ME Clinicians



Another outcome from the conference week was the resumption of meetings of the European ME Clinicians Council (EMECC), which was restarted following the conference. The group met in the week following the conference, with participation from clinicians across Europe and from the USA. The plan is to meet monthly, with the next meeting already scheduled and we are now planning a dedicated event in the 2027 conference week. Further details to follow.



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