

# Friends of the International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations

## Who are the Friends of the International Alliance?

Friends of the International Alliance help the Alliance achieve the highest possible quality of life for people affected by ALS/MND, and its related conditions, throughout the world by providing financial support for our activities.

## What is the International Alliance?

The International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations (The Alliance) is a not for profit association. Its members are ALS/MND organizations from around the world.

## What is its purpose?

Its purpose is to achieve the highest quality of life for people affected by ALS/MND and its related conditions throughout the world. It does this by sponsoring participation in an annual meeting of associations, by sharing experiences of individual members, and by undertaking global initiatives to advance the interests of people living with ALS/MND. Initiatives undertaken include development of statements on good practice in drug trials and genetic testing; promoting and encouraging research; development of a baseline of services; awarding annually the Forbes Norris and Humanitarian Awards; developing and maintaining a web site; international resource sharing via the internet; encouraging formation of new patient support associations; and coordination of ALS/MND Global Day on 21 June.

## What is ALS/MND?

ALS and MND are abbreviations for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Motor Neurone Disease, a fatal neurological disorder characterised by progressive degeneration of motor cells in the spinal cord and brain stem. Symptoms include muscle weakness and paralysis, impaired speaking, swallowing and breathing. In most cases it does not affect intellect, memory or the senses. Progress is relentless and generally rapid, with an average life expectancy of 2-5 years.

ALS/MND usually affects people in the 40-70 age range. There are nearly 120,000 cases diagnosed worldwide each year, or 328 new cases every day! Only 10% of the cases are familial (inherited) with the remaining 90% unpredictable.

The disease affects each individual differently and usually has a devastating impact on family, carers and friends. The rapidly progressing nature of the disease requires constant adaptation to increasing and changing levels of disability that, in turn, require increased levels of care and support.

## Become a Friend of the International Alliance

Become a Friend of the International Alliance by helping us do more. Your donation will support our activities to promote quality care for people with ALS/MND and undertake further global initiatives to help Associations everywhere in their fight against this devastating disease.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ (please include your currency in words)

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_ / \_\_

Please circle as appropriate:    Visa/Access/MasterCard/Amex

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques/bank drafts payable to *International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations*

Please return to: International Alliance of ALS/MND Associations, PO Box 246, Northampton NN1 2PR, UK