

MRC Population and Systems Medicine Board (PSMB) – Board Meeting Minutes

22 and 23 June 2022

“ME/CFS Cross Board Opportunity

Finally, a slide was shown on ME/CFS, an important cross Board activity with the only MRC cross board highlight notice. MRC are to update this ME/CFS highlight notice to reflect relevant new priorities identified by a James Lind Alliance priority setting exercise and will be part of a new multistakeholder UKCRC ME research subgroup to raise awareness, build trust with the community, consider research which will have the greatest impact and to support researchers.”

MRC REPSTET Member Updates

December 2022

“ME/CFS: PSMB are engaging with the UKCRC convened ME Research Subgroup reporting to [REDACTED], seeking to raise awareness of research into ME and build trust between relevant stakeholders. We plan to raise awareness of existing mechanisms to integrate and prioritise ME/CFS research in MRC funding streams among our Boards and Panels, and update the cross-MRC highlight notice with James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership [Top 10+ ME/CFS research priorities](#)¹.”

UKCRC ME/CFS Research Working Group – Meeting Minutes

17 January 2023

“16. ... She was also in the process of updating the UKRI/MRC highlight notice webpage.”

UKCRC Capacity and Capability Subgroup Note

15 February 2023

“Update on Action 1 ... MRC have updated their highlight notice which now references the JLA PSP Top 10+. Anecdotally, there seems to have been an increase in the number of enquiries relating to ME/CFS research applications since MRC moved onto the centralised UKRI website, which may be due to the improved visibility of funding opportunities, such as the MRC ME/CFS Highlight notice.”

MRC REPSTET Member Updates

February 2023

“ME/CFS: PSMB are engaging with the UKCRC convened ME Research Subgroup reporting to [REDACTED], seeking to raise awareness of research into ME and build trust between relevant stakeholders. We are updating MRC’s [cross-Board highlight notice](#)² and supporting development of signposting to funding opportunities for researchers.”

¹ <https://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/ME-CFS/top-10-priorities.htm#:~:text=Priority%20Setting%20Partnerships%20bring%20together,to%20help%20influence%20future%20research.>

² <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/researching-me-cfs-highlight-notice/>

MRC Board Chairs' Meeting Minutes

24 February 2023

"ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS): This is a long-standing cross-board opportunity which has recently been updated to reflect the top 10 research priorities identified by the ME/CFS Priority Setting Partnership, facilitated by the John Lind Alliance. There has been close working with DHSC who have set up an ME research sub-group commissioned by the then Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, and reporting to [REDACTED]. The delivery plan from this is due to go out for community consultation soon. A member of the PSMB team will be attending Board meetings to update on the updated highlight notice."

MRC Population and Systems Medicine Board (PSMB) – Draft Board Meeting Minutes

8 and 9 March 2023

"2.2. A cross-board opportunity, the ME/CFS research highlight notice, had recently been updated. [REDACTED] outlined the importance of the area, and provided updates on recent Priority Setting Partnership activities and ongoing strategic work to support and enable a strong portfolio of ME/CFS. Members expressed support of the importance of the area and highlighted opportunities that may emerge through insights of LongCovid research and improved diagnostic approaches."

MRC Infections and Immunity Board (IIB) – Draft Board Meeting minutes

8 and 9 March 2023

"Item 7. ME/CFS Highlight notice

[REDACTED] provided an update on MRC's funding activities around ME/CFS, highlighting recent strategic activities in this area and reminding the Board of the long-standing MRC Highlight notice for ME/CFS research. The Board welcomed this important work and noted the potential parallels with aspects of the long COVID research programmes arising from the pandemic, agreeing that it would be important to support appropriate links between these activities."

MRC Neurosciences and Mental Health Board (NMHB) – Draft Board Meeting minutes

15 and 16 March 2023

"Item 3. ME/CFS Highlight notice

[REDACTED] joined the meeting to provide an update on recent strategic activity in the ME/CFS portfolio. The Board were advised that the MRC ME/CFS highlight notice had been recently updated to reflect the top ten priorities for ME/CFS research which had been identified through a recent priority setting partnership exercise with the ME/CFS community. Board members were asked to promote awareness of this opportunity to their research communities to help stimulate research within this space."