



Invest in ME

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Charity Nr 1114035

A Future for European Research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

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Invest in ME is a UK charity intent on changing the landscape of treatment for patients with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME).

Diagnostic tests and medical treatments can only be developed from sound scientific biomedical research.

Classified by the World Health Organisation as neurological, ME is a multi-system, multi-organ disease. Invest in ME is a founder member and Chair of the European ME Alliance. The EMEA recently joined the European Federation of Neurological Associations.

An objective of Invest in ME is to forge international collaborations between researchers to solve this complex disease.

In its first year in 2006, one of the first steps taken by Invest in ME to achieving this was to establish an annual international conference (IIMEC) bringing together patients, biomedical researchers, medical and other professionals.

Added to the mix of IIMEC events is an international biomedical researcher colloquium (BRMEC) which facilitates discussions and collaborations. A major outcome from BMRCE3 in 2013 was the decision to prepare for a UK trial of rituximab – a drug showing promise from trials conducted with ME patients by oncologists in Norway.

At the 5th Colloquium in May this year (BRMEC5) discussions took place between EMEA colleagues and European researchers about the future of ME research and how better to coordinate and link together research activity in several European countries.

There appears to be overwhelming support and enthusiasm from the group of researchers whom IIME/EMEA have brought together to work cooperatively and more effectively. This will be welcome news for patients and their families and doctors across Europe.

Forming a group or consortium of European researchers represents a very progressive step in helping to establish new collaborations, cement on-going ones, developing new research ideas, and bidding for funds that would enable working together on joint projects.

This is the genesis of **EMERG – The European ME Research Group**.

IIME charity and EMEA colleagues are arranging the inaugural meeting of EMERG in London this autumn - a new and exciting venture for ME research.

Facilitated also by supportive MPs, IIME will convene the first meeting to bring this together in the hope that rapid and lasting progress can be made in the research, treatment and cure for myalgic encephalomyelitis.

EMEA will be organising a competition to devise a logo for **EMERG**.

A European logo design competition will help to inform and engage EMEA members and supporters in this development. Details will be available soon.

Meanwhile, EMEA invites all European patients or supporters to begin thinking of logo designs to support this bold, new venture.

Invest in ME – www.investinme.org
European ME Alliance – www.euro-me.org
IIMEC/BRMEC – <http://www.investinme.eu/BRMEC%20Colloquiums.shtml#BRMEC5>