The TRICALS Consortium was launched on November 7th at an event in the Railway Museum in Utrecht, Netherlands. TRICALS is the largest European research initiative to find a cure for ALS/MND (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/Motor Neuron Disease) to date. It includes 42 top research centres in 16 countries who have joined hands with patients’ organisations and fundraisers to reach one goal: find a treatment for ALS/MND within 5 years. Research Motor Neurone is the funding partner behind the Irish group based at Trinity College Dublin.

TRICALS believes that bringing top researchers together and combining all patient data is the best approach towards finding new and effective treatments for ALS/MND. The main aim is to open clinical trials to all people with ALS/MND – giving them and their loved ones the chance to make a meaningful contribution to ridding the world of ALS/MND, forever. The direct involvement of people with ALS/MND is essential and urgent. Each person with ALS/MND holds an important piece of the puzzle and putting the puzzle together will help us to find new and more effective treatments. We believe that with our new approach, where we all work together, we can make the difference. We can turn ALS/MND into a condition that is treatable.

To learn more about this exciting new initiative – please visit www.tricals.org

Fr Tony Coote Assistant Professor in ALS/MND announced

The Motor Neurone Disease Research Team at Trinity College Dublin mourned the death of Fr Tony Coote earlier this year, but his name and legacy will live on with the appointment of Dr. Bahman Nasseroleslami as the Tony Coote Assistant Professor in ALS/MND. Dr Nasseroleslami has already made breakthrough discoveries in brain wave signalling in ALS/MND, and his work will help to drive the quest for new and more effective treatments.

Fr Tony Coote was diagnosed with ALS/MND by Professor Orla Hardiman in March 2018 and passed away on 28th August, 2019.

Despite his rapidly evolving disability, Fr Coote decided to take direct action to raise funds for ALS/MND research and care. As he said: “unless there’s research, there will be no hope for people in the future”.

On 10th July 2018, Fr Coote and hundreds of supporters including Professor Hardiman and her team, set off on the first of 28 stages walking from Letterkenny, Co. Donegal to Ballydehob, Co. Cork. The charity walk took four weeks to complete and raised over €250,000 for ALS/MND research at Trinity College.
Update on TCD-led Latin-American Project

In 2019 LAENALS (The Latin-American Epidemiological Network for ALS) marked its third year since inception with a consortium-wide update meeting in Dublin in September between the coordinators (Academic Unit of Neurology, TCD, Ireland), scientific advisors (Profs. Hardiman, Dublin and Logroscino, Italy), representatives of the funding body (Center for Disease Control, USA) and representatives from all three of the current LAENALS Sites, i.e. Chile, Uruguay and Cuba. This TCD led international network was set up to determine the prevalence of ALS/MND in Latin-America through collaborative work between Prof. Orla Hardiman and researchers in the various countries involved. This is the first time that the US has provided federal funding to permit any sort of study in Cuba. As a broader outcome the network also aims to extend the network of dedicated MND groups further around the world to ultimately drive research into the condition at a faster pace.

Earlier studies by researchers at Trinity suggested that the incidence of ALS/MND is lower in populations with mixed ancestral backgrounds such as Hispanic and African American populations. LAENALS is continuing to collect a body of data with which to test the hypotheses that mixed ancestry may have a protective effect on developing ALS/MND through the establishment of new registers of the incidence, prevalence and risk factors for ALS/MND in the Latin-American countries involved. The three countries currently involved are particularly valuable for this research because they have high percentages of the population who come from a mixed ancestral background. As the data accumulates at each of the sites involved, we hope to produce results in the coming year to start answering the questions we set out to address. These data will also allow us to compare results between Latin-American and European populations through large data-sets previously collected in Europe.

While the study is scheduled to continue for at least another year with its current funding we hope to secure further funds to keep the network going and take on further partners in the region, with interest already from groups in Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago.

Save the Date: Tuesdays with Morrie comes to Trinity College Dublin in March 2020!

Date: March 31st 2020
Location: Lir Theatre Trinity College Dublin

The Dundalk Theatre workshop will present Tuesdays with Morrie in support of Research Motor Neurone (RMN). This powerful play, starring Matt Murphy as Morrie and Sean Whelan as Mitch, tells the moving story of the reunion of a college professor with ALS/MND and his former student. Matt is a very well known in amateur dramatics. He was Director of David Mamet’s Glengarry Glenross the 2016 winner of the Abbey Award at All Ireland Drama Festival in Athlone 2016. Last year – see the flyer from last year’s programmme! - Matt and Sean – a TCD graduate - starred in Tuesdays with Morrie to critical acclaim in Dundalk. High demand and great reviews lead to repeat performances!! The play is directed by leading amateur dramatics director Gerry Roddy.

For more information on how to book tickets, please email researchMND@tcd.ie and we will send you out further information in the New Year.
Gala Dinner in Support of Motor Neurone Disease Research raises €30,000!

The Academic Unit of Neurology in Trinity College was delighted to hold a Gala Dinner in honour of Doddie Weir. We would like to thank all of those who made it a wonderful success. The event raised over €30,000 all of which will go towards finding a cure for ALS/MND.

Doddie Weir, in the face of adversity brought about by his diagnosis with ALS/MND, decided to do everything in his power to make it a curable disease. He founded a charity in Scotland called My Name’5 Doddie Foundation which is also focussed on designing better clinical trials and delivering better and more effective drugs.

The goal is to provide every person with ALS/MND with the opportunity to participate in high-quality clinical studies that will advance our knowledge of the disease and identify treatments that will save lives.

Funds raised will be equally shared by My Name’5 Doddie Foundation and the Irish ALS/MND Research Group at Trinity College Dublin, with a track record of internationally acknowledged research.
WE SINCERELY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE MANY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS WITH THE VISION TO HELP US FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT OF PATIENTS WITH NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES. OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING 2019 SUPPORTERS:

- Carey’s Foundation
- Maura McHugh and Friends, Donegal
- The London to Ballaghadereen Cycle (Finbar Holian)
- The Iris O’Brien Foundation
- Fr Tony Coote and Walk While You Can
- The Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA)
- The Good Run, organised by Olivia Sexton
- Maeve O’Siochain and The Wednesday Wonders
- The Andrew Lydon Trust
- Hähnel Industries in memory of Mr Walter Hähnel
- The Sirr and Heverin Families in memory of Maurice Sirr
- Pat Ryan, Baldoyle
- Irish Air Corps Goodwill Fund organised by Lt. Col. Retd. John Hughes
- May Langton
- Rosemary McCarthy
- Brian Hoey (KBC Dublin Marathon)
- Stackstown Golf Club
- Carne Babes Skinny Dipper Fundraiser
- Noel Kavanagh & Family
- The McKeon Family in memory of Declan McKeon
- John Casey
- Catherine Flood
- Leslie and Carmel Buckley
- John Kennedy
- ICON
- Arthur Cox
- DUX Philip Matthews
- Ronan Horgan
- Finola Harrington
- Adrian Madden
- Ronan Hardiman
- Caroline McGrath
- Andrew Hehir
- Lisa Perkins
- William Brady
- My Name’5 Doddie Foundation
- Peter Eades
- Brian Peters
- Jack Clarke
- Carogen
- Jimmy Foran
- W2 Foundation
- Avolon
- Maples
- Rise Global
- Tetrarch Capital
- Icon Windows
- Grant Thornton
- deterMND Trust (Anto Finnegan)
- Royal Tara Golf Club
- Watch Your Back MND
- The MND Assassins

For regular updates on our research and fundraising activities, follow us on twitter @NeurologyTCD and like us on Facebook @ResearchMotorNeurone as well as through our Research and Fundraising Blogs on www.mnd.ie