

MDUK Research Communications Group Member -

Volunteer Role Description

We understand that a diagnosis of muscular dystrophy changes everything. Every day Muscular Dystrophy UK is urgently searching for treatments and cures to improve lives today and transform those for future generations.

How you will make a difference

We're setting up a group of scientific professionals who will support our Research team to communicate about the research that we fund. You'll be helping us to summarise research papers, simplifying them for a general audience and ensuring that people affected by muscle wasting conditions understand the latest research developments.

Role title: Research Communications Group Member

Location: Remote

Department: Research

Frequency: Ad-hoc: we expect members of the group to complete pieces of work 3 to 4 times per year

Summary of role

What you'll be doing:

- The Research Communications Group will be sent research papers or information on common technologies or concepts such as gene therapies.
- Members of the group will then write short, simple summaries of these papers or technologies. These summaries will be used on MDUK's website or in communications to our supporters.
- We may also ask the group to write other small pieces, such as entries in our glossary of key terms related to research into muscle wasting conditions.
- Tasks will be sent to all members of the group and members of the group will accept or decline the task depending on their availability.
- We'll bring the group together annually to share ideas about how MDUK can best communicate our research work and to thank you for your support.

What you'll get out of the role:

- Experience communicating about scientific research and distilling complex ideas for a non-scientific audience.
- A chance to help shape the way that MDUK shares our research with a wider audience.
- Training on our brand guidelines and advice on how best to summarise research papers for a lay audience.

- Being part of a small community of researchers dedicated to communicating scientific research clearly
- A flexible volunteering role that you can fit around your other commitments

What you'll bring:

- A biological sciences / medical research background (ideally Masters level but our priority is that you can understand scientific research papers).
- An understanding of current research into muscle wasting conditions would be desirable but not essential.
- Strong written communication skills; able to explain complex concepts in a clear and engaging manner
- A passion for communicating research simply and succinctly to a lay audience and an interest in the work of MDUK

Application process

- We'll initially ask you to complete a short form with information about your educational background and your interest in the role.
- We'll also ask you to complete a sample task so that you get a feel for the role and we can make sure it's a good fit.
- You'll have an informal telephone interview with our Research team so we can tell you more about our work and find out more about you.

Volunteering for MDUK

What we expect from you:

- enthusiasm and commitment to supporting the work of MDUK
- to maintain and uphold the reputation and good name of the charity
- to listen to, and work co-operatively with paid members of staff and other volunteers – treating all with courtesy and respect
- to take reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions
- to support the charity's equal opportunities and diversity policy – helping to promote this to all our supporters
- to provide us with feedback on how we can improve your volunteering experience with the charity
- to inform us if your commitment to us, for any reason, can no longer continue

What you can expect from us:

- your main contact will share the *Volunteers' Handbook* with you, which will act as a summary of the information within our Volunteer Policy (you can ask for the full policy document if you'd like, too)
- regular email updates on the charity's work
- contact with other volunteers working with MDUK

- your main contact will work with you to provide any support and training you need to fulfil your role
- you can claim back pre-agreed reasonable expenses as per the MDUK expenses policy
- insurance cover, while volunteering, under MDUK's public liability insurance, as per the insurance policy
- a formal, written procedure for resolving difficulties; if you have a complaint it will be dealt with promptly and fairly.

Other

Travel:	Not required at present but may hold face to face meetings of the Research Communications Group in London annually in future
Access to internet:	Required
Confidentiality agreement:	Required