

Research Communications Group Member

Muscular Dystrophy UK is a charity that connects a community of more than 110,000 people living with one of over 60 muscle wasting and weakening conditions, and all the people around them. So everyone can get the healthcare, support and treatments needed to feel good, mentally and physically.

Location: Remote

Department: Research

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

How you will make a difference

You'll be part of a group of scientific professionals supporting our Research team to communicate about the research that MDUK funds. You'll be helping to summarise papers, simplifying them for a general audience and ensuring that people affected by muscle-wasting and weakening conditions understand the latest research developments.

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.

Why volunteer?

- Gain 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 and to be 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.

At MDUK, we're committed to supporting and empowering our volunteers. As such, you can always expect the following from us:

- training and support throughout your time volunteering
- we will share the *Volunteers Handbook* with you, along with regular updates on the charity's work
- opportunities to connect with other MDUK volunteers
- claim back reasonable expenses as agreed with your MDUK contact
- insurance cover, while volunteering, under our public liability insurance
- your personal data will always be held securely in accordance with GDPR and [our Privacy Policy](#)
- a formal, written procedure for resolving difficulties; if you have a complaint, it will be dealt with promptly and fairly.

In return, we ask for you:

- to show enthusiasm and commitment to supporting the work of MDUK, maintaining and upholding the reputation and good name of the charity
- to listen to, and work co-operatively with MDUK staff and volunteers – treating all with courtesy and respect – and adhering to the Volunteer Code of Conduct
- to take reasonable care of your own health and safety and that of others around you
- to support the charity's equal opportunities and diversity policy
- to provide us with feedback on your volunteering experience and let us know if you can no longer volunteer with us

Training and other requirements

Confidentiality Agreement: Required

Access to internet: Required