

Stavros Niarchos Foundation pledge helps fund MND 'hot spot' research



STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

A pledge of £100,000 has been awarded to the MND Association to help fund our Whole Genome Scan research project.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation has made a generous donation to our international MND research initiative which aims to narrow the search for genes that contribute to MND by identifying 'hot spots' linked to the disease which can then be carefully searched, letter by letter, for disease related 'spelling mistakes'.

By analysing over 4,000 DNA samples it is hoped that the genetic factors which could predispose people to MND can be identified. Once this link is made then it will provide important clues as to the underlying causes and mechanisms of the disease. This understanding could then allow researchers to pinpoint effective treatment strategies.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation was created following the death of Greek shipping magnate Stavros S. Niarchos in 1996. This MND research initiative project fits well with the Foundation's ethos, as the Foundation was established as part of Niarchos' enduring commitment to continue to change the lives of others through health and medicine projects as well as education, social welfare, and arts and culture programmes.

Since its creation 11 years ago, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation has provided 1,477 grants to various not-for-profit organisations in 83 countries across the globe. For more information about the Stavros Niarchos Foundation go to www.snfoundation.org.