



Invest in ME Research

Invest in ME Research wins £1,000 Movement for Good award

UK Registered Charity Nr. 1153730

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July 2021

Invest in ME Research has won a £1,000 Movement for Good award thanks to nominations from the public – and especially to our great supporters.

Invest in ME Research was nominated to win a £1,000 boost as part of specialist insurer Ecclesiastical's **Movement for Good** awards, which is giving £1million to charities this summer.

The charity plans to use this donation to buy and maintain a meeting and webinar software licence. The pandemic has forced cancellation of the normal in-person international conferences that are organised by the charity and this has necessitated a different approach to providing news and information about our plans, projects, funded research and progress going forward. Therefore, arranging and organising virtual online events allows us to continue to bring together more researchers, clinicians and patient groups across Europe thus facilitating the continuation of collaborations in research and allowing us to continue to inform hundreds of thousands of people. This will also avoid having to pause the bringing together of international researchers - one of the key objectives of the charity.

Members of the public were invited to nominate causes close to their hearts, with 500 gifts of £1,000 available for donation. Invest in ME Research was one more than 13,000 charities which were nominated by an amazing 210,000 members of the public to be in for a chance to win a financial boost.

Chairman Kathleen McCall commented -

"The charity is very grateful to Ecclesiastical for this wonderful initiative to help a small charity such as ours to make further progress in improving the research environment for ME.

To be one of the few charities selected amongst so many other deserving causes means something very special to us. We also wish to thank all those who supported the charity with their nominations – especially to our wonderful supporters who have been responsible for changing the way that ME is perceived, researched and treated over the last fifteen years. Invest in ME Research has

made great progress thanks to this support with initiatives being performed in areas such as – arranging the premier annual world conference week for ME, introducing a forum for young researchers, establishing a family of international biomedical researchers, initiating European ME Researchers and Clinicians Groups, collaborating with an alliance of European patient organisations and charities, proposing and facilitating the development of the foundations of the UK/European Centre of Excellence for ME – and funding high-quality biomedical research that includes the only clinical trial being performed in the UK and one of only a couple occurring in Europe.

This demonstrates what a small charity with determination and resolve can achieve when supported by such wonderful supporters”.

Mark Hews, group chief executive at Ecclesiastical, said: “We would like to thank every single person who took the time to nominate a good cause as part of our Movement for Good awards. Ecclesiastical is a unique financial services group. We are owned by a charity which means all available profits can be given to the good causes that are so important to our customers. As a company whose purpose is to contribute to the greater good of society, charitable giving is at the heart of our business. We know that £1,000 can make a huge difference to the incredible work that charities do and we’re looking forward to seeing how this financial boost will change lives for the better.”

Thank you again to the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for this wonderful gesture.

ENDS

Notes for editors

Contact details [Who should the journalist contact for more information]

About Invest in ME Research

- Invest in ME Research is an independent UK charity finding, funding and facilitating a strategy of biomedical research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME or ME/CFS) and promoting better education about ME.
- Invest in ME Research is run by volunteers - patients or parents of children with ME - with no paid staff. Our dedicated and committed volunteers bring the right skills, knowledge, experience and ethos to every area of our work.
- Overheads are kept to a minimum to enable all funds raised to go to promoting education of, and facilitating and funding biomedical research into, ME.
- The charity's objectives are to initiate, maintain and augment a strategy of high-quality biomedical research into ME, to provide education about ME, and to raise awareness of the effects of the disease on patients and families. For more information visit www.investinme.org

About Ecclesiastical

1. Owned by a registered charity, Allchurches Trust, Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer of the faith, heritage, fine art, charities, education, real estate, schemes and private client sectors
2. Ecclesiastical is one of the UK's top corporate donors to charity. It has donated over £99m to charity since 2016 and is aiming to reach its target of giving more than £100m by the end of 2021. Find out more at www.ecclesiastical.com/about-us

The Chair and Board of Invest in ME Research

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