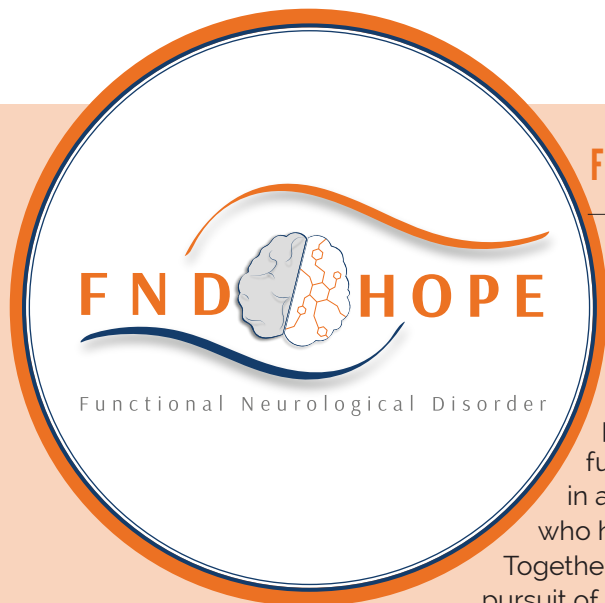


FND HOPE INTERNATIONAL

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FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER

Since our website went live on April 13th 2012, we have become a rapidly growing community. FND Hope, FND Hope UK and FND Hope Australia are all registered charities committed to the health and well-being of those with functional symptoms. We have joined forces in a global network to advocate best practices for ethical, patient-centred care for FND sufferers. We aim to change how functional symptoms are understood and defined globally. We work in a concerted manner to advocate for the men, women and children who have had their lives impacted by debilitating functional symptoms. Together, we are a force for change, uniting the FND community in the pursuit of empowering and improving the health of those diagnosed with FND.

FND has been described as one of the greatest medical mysteries of all time, with little research being conducted into it [2]. Many people are left without care or support, struggling to attain a diagnosis and access appropriate services.

COMMON FND QUESTIONS

What Causes FND?

The exact cause is unknown, but physical triggers, injury and/or psychological stress have been suggested as possible risk factors.

How is FND Diagnosed?

FND is a positive diagnosis; it is not just a case of excluding other conditions.

How Does Treatment Work?

The aim of treatment is to 'retrain your brain' to unlearn abnormal movement patterns and re-learn normal ones. Multi-disciplinary treatment has proven to be most effect. Physiotherapy treatment can help many patients, but not all.

What is the Long-Term Prognosis?

The outcome of FND patients is variable and hard to predict in a given individual.

FND QUOTES:

"Medical professionals often have little understanding of the disorder and do not understand that this is a common, severe disorder that is not under the patient's control." Dr. Tim Nicholson, Institute of Psychiatry Psychology & Neuroscience - London, England.

"In 30 percent of [FND] patients – and you can dig as hard as you like – you won't have previous trauma." Dr Alex Lehn, Mater Hospital - Brisbane, Australia.

"Suffering from FND can be very stigmatizing, and patients are often mistakenly believed to be malingering. FNDs are very common conditions, and more research and treatment resources are urgently needed." Dr Kathrin LaFaver, University of Louisville - Kentucky, USA.

"Throughout history the medical community has failed those suffering with functional symptoms. However, that is changing and we are hopeful that FND patients will finally be getting answers based on science and the support they deserve." Bridget Mildon, Founder/President of FND Hope US/UK.

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FND SYMPTOMS

The most common misconception is that people with FND are in control of their symptoms. However, the patient does not consciously produce functional symptoms. Functional Neurological Disorder symptoms are known for appearing suddenly, can progress rapidly and often wax and wane (including complete remissions and sudden recurrences).

Symptoms can include:

- Motor dysfunction
- Involuntary movements
- Seizures
- Gait disorder
- Muscle weakness
- Sensory problems
- Speech difficulties
- Vision disturbances
- Paralysis
- And more

THE FND DEBATE

Historically, the onset of FND was associated with emotional stress and trauma, although many patients reported that symptoms began following physical injury, illness or surgery. FND is classified as a mental health condition in the DSM, but falls in the gap between neurology and psychiatry, with neither discipline taking full responsibility for treatment [2]. This has held back patient's abilities to access treatment and prolongs recovery.

FND STATISTICS

10+ FND can affect anyone but is rare in children under 10.
Age

2:1 FND affects twice as many women as it does men
Gender

30% Up to 30% of patients in neurology outpatient clinics have functional symptoms.^[1]
Prevalence

50% Multi-disciplinary treatment results in positive long-term outcomes
Success

PARTNERS

REGISTERED CHARITIES

FND HOPE USA 501c3 #32-0400132

FND HOPE UK CIO #1173607

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INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Professor Mark Edwards	England
Dr Kathrin LaFaver	America
Dr Alex Lehn	Australia
Dr Tim Nicholson	England
Dr Jon Stone	Scotland

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Every 13th of April, FND Hope leads a campaign to raise awareness internationally.

FND RESEARCH

Latest research shows that comorbid psychological disorders are not present in every Functional Neurological Disorder sufferer, even when incredibly stringent assessments take place [4]. Further, functional changes in brain imaging studies are observed in people with Functional Neurological Disorder, independent of depression, anxiety and childhood trauma [3] and a diagnosis of Functional Neurological Disorder is not possible on the basis of associated psychosocial factors or the absence of other disease pathology [5].

Recent studies of brain activity indicate dysfunction in brain areas controlling planning, initiation of movement and self-agency [6]. Childhood trauma, recent negative life events, depression and anxiety are all more common in patients with functional neurological symptoms than in the healthy population, but many have none of these [6].

WORK CITED

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GET IN TOUCH

For more information or to discuss other opportunities contact:
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FND HOPE



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FND HOPE

Mission

Our mission is to promote awareness, support affected individuals, and advance research for the prevention, treatment and recovery of FND.

Vision

We envision a world where FND patients can expect to be treated with dignity, care and respect, regardless of the cause of their symptoms.

Motto

Empowering Patients To Better Health

FNDHOPE.ORG

21,000+

Unique Visitors
per month 2016

35,000+

Unique Visitors
per month 2017

4,500+

FACEBOOK
Followers/Likes

50+

Countries
Reached

KEY OFFERINGS:

- The fndhope.org website houses extensive FND information, videos and downloadable content
- Peer-to-peer support groups
- Live webinars with leading FND specialists
- FND Hope has teamed up with the Genetic Alliance to create the world's first FND Scientific Registry for medical research. The registry creates a platform where patients and researchers can work together to advance understanding into the clinic care, causes, diagnosis, and treatment of FND

FACEBOOK PEER SUPPORT MEMBERS



2K+
UK



4K+
International



600+
US/CA



400+
AU/NZ



300+
Carers/givers

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