



# ***Invest in ME Research***

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UK Registered Charity Nr. 1153730

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June 2020

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 will take this opportunity to support the development of young researchers in ME, in which the charity is collaborating with the European ME Research Group (EMERG). This scheme will assist in encouraging young UK and European researchers into the field of ME research by creating collaborations in research, supporting cross-site visits and facilitating research discussions - where currently little exists.

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 7,000 charities which were nominated by an amazing 98,000 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. 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 decade. Invest in ME Research has made great progress thanks to this support – now arranging the premier conference week for ME, introducing a forum for young researchers, establishing a family of international biomedical researchers, initiating a European ME Research and Clinicians Group, funding high-quality biomedical research and developing the foundations of the UK/European Centre of Excellence for ME. 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.”

\*\*\*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. 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](http://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 and private client sectors
2. Ecclesiastical is one of the UK's top five company givers to charity according to the 2017-18 UK Guide to Company Giving. After donating £50m to charity in three years, Ecclesiastical launched a bold vision in 2016 to raise £100m for good causes by the end of 2020. In March 2020, the Group announced it had already raised £96million towards its target. Find out more at [www.ecclesiastical.com/ourstory](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/ourstory)

The Chair and Board of Invest in ME Research

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***[www.investinme.org](http://www.investinme.org)***