



## Postmortem Research- Manchester Brain Bank

<b>Grant Amount</b>	£2,500 per postmortem
<b>Location</b>	Manchester Brain Bank (MBB)
<b>Research Field</b>	Infrastructure
<b>Lead Researcher/s</b>	Dr Andrew Robinson
<b>Start Date</b>	19/10/2023
<b>Duration</b>	-
<b>Status</b>	In progress
<b>Latest Update</b>	<a href="https://meassociation.org.uk/category/ramsay-post-mortem/">https://meassociation.org.uk/category/ramsay-post-mortem/</a>

### BACKGROUND

Post-mortem research is a vital but underexplored avenue in ME/CFS biomedical science. While neuroimaging and clinical investigations have pointed to abnormalities in specific brain regions and the spinal cord, direct pathological evidence remains limited. The ME Association (MEA), through its Ramsay Research Fund, has long supported initiatives that deepen understanding of ME/CFS—Such as the UK ME/CFS biobank and various diagnostic and treatment studies.

In response to generous donations made in memory of Kara Jane Spencer and Jack Phillips, and building on earlier commitments to post-mortem research, the MEA has now launched a formal partnership with the Manchester Brain Bank (MBB). This collaboration aims to generate high-quality neuropathological data that could clarify the biological underpinnings of ME/CFS.

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### PROJECT DETAILS

- **Lead Institution:** Manchester Brain Bank, based at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and sponsored by the University of Manchester.
- **Scope:** Detailed examination of brain, spinal cord, and dorsal root ganglia from at least five individuals with a confirmed ME/CFS diagnosis.
- **Age Criteria:** Donors must be aged 18–50 at the time of death to minimise confounding age-related changes.
- **Target Regions:** Focus on areas implicated in ME/CFS symptomatology, including the hypothalamus, brain stem, and dorsal root ganglia.
- **Tissue Access:** Samples will be stored securely and made available to qualified researchers, similar to the UK ME/CFS Biobank model.
- **Future Expansion:** Initial findings will inform whether further cases are examined and whether the programme is scaled up.
- **For more information on [Ramsay Post Mortem](#) or to complete the [MEA Statement of Intent](#) or for [Frequently Asked Questions](#)**

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### IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING

- **Direct insight:** post-mortem analysis offers the clearest view yet into ME/CFS brain and nerve pathology.
- **Critical gap:** it tackles a major blind spot in ME/CFS research—what actually happens in the central nervous system.
- **Future resource:** builds a lasting, ethically governed tissue archive for global research use.
- **Patient legacy:** fulfils the wishes of donors and families who want their experience to drive progress.
- **Catalyst for growth:** early results could unlock wider investment and scale-up opportunities.