

DISCOVER-ME FACTSHEET

Biological evidence and mechanism-based disease classification for the improved diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of ME/CFS

About the project

Myalgic encephalomyelitis / chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a debilitating multisystem disease affecting up to 1% of the population, defined by post exertional malaise, persistent fatigue, cognitive and neurological symptoms, and autonomic, endocrine and immune dysfunction. Clinical heterogeneity and the absence of specific diagnostic tests lead to long delays in diagnosis, a lack of effective therapies, and a socioeconomic burden exceeding €40 billion annually in Europe.

DISCOVER-ME will deliver the first clinically actionable, biologically validated stratification framework for ME/CFS, overcoming decades of fragmented, underpowered research.

Objectives

- Harmonised clinical phenotyping of 2,000 patients and multi-omics profiling of more than 900 samples from five European biobanks
- Identification, validation and prioritisation of biomarkers across genetic, immune, metabolic, neuroendocrine and vascular domains
- The first systems-level taxonomy of ME/CFS grounded in mechanistic disease drivers, supported by AI-assisted stratification
- Open-access disease maps and digital twin models enabling in silico testing of therapeutic hypotheses, screening more than 9,000 known compounds for precision drug repurposing
- Patient involvement embedded throughout, from co-design of phenotyping tools to stratification frameworks and policy recommendations

Key facts

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Coordinator	Medizinische Universität Wien (Medical University of Vienna), Austria
Consortium	21 partner organisations across 12 countries: Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom

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