

Invest in a world free from meningitis

Funding research to save lives and drive global impact

Meningitis is a global threat - but it is preventable. Our vision is a world free from meningitis, and, through groundbreaking research, we are making this future a reality. Over the next five years, our research programme will focus on three key goals.

Research goal 1:

Optimising use of, and access to, meningitis vaccines

Vaccines have revolutionised the fight against meningitis, drastically reducing cases, deaths and the life-long disabilities caused by meningitis. However, millions of people, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, still lack access to life-saving vaccines. In some regions, vaccine hesitancy threatens progress and, for certain types of meningitis, no vaccine yet exists.

We are committed to ensuring that meningitis vaccines are **affordable, accessible and effectively used worldwide**. Our research will:

- ✓ Improve the **availability and use of existing and newly licenced meningitis vaccines**, ensuring that they reach those who need them most.
- ✓ Fund research into **new vaccines** for strains of meningitis that currently have no protection.
- ✓ Support studies on **vaccine confidence and public perception**, addressing hesitancy and misinformation to maintain high uptake rates.

Research goal 2:

Understanding and reducing the life-long impacts of meningitis

Meningitis doesn't end with survival. For many, the after effects - including hearing loss, brain damage, limb loss and emotional trauma - can last a lifetime.

Yet research into these long-term consequences remains severely underfunded, leaving survivors and their families without adequate support. We will change that by funding research that:

- ✓ **Measures the true impact** of meningitis on survivors, families and caregivers, especially in under-served communities.
- ✓ **Improves diagnosis and treatment** for long-term complications, ensuring survivors receive the care they need.
- ✓ **Develops better tools** to assess health-related quality of life, so we can fully understand and address the needs of those affected.
- ✓ **Explores the mental and emotional toll** of meningitis, including the impact of bereavement on families.

Research goal 3:

Enhancing global access to pathogen genomics

Cutting-edge technology like whole genome sequencing allows scientists to track meningitis outbreaks, identify emerging threats and develop targeted treatments.

However, most low- and middle-income countries lack the resources to conduct this vital research, leaving them vulnerable to devastating outbreaks. We are working to close this gap by:

- ✓ **Expanding global access** to genomic research, particularly in regions where meningitis is most prevalent.
- ✓ **Improving data sharing standards**, ensuring researchers worldwide can collaborate and respond quickly to new threats.
- ✓ **Supporting international partnerships** to strengthen disease tracking, outbreak response and vaccine development.



I am more confident now than I used to be because I've learnt that, if people stare, you can just explain to them what has happened and suddenly they become very supportive and understanding. I think lack of knowledge is predominantly an issue.

Ella Bailey, Meningitis Research Foundation Ambassador



Why your support matters

Meningitis research is critically underfunded. Despite its devastating impact, only a fraction of global health research funding is directed toward understanding and preventing the disease.

Your investment can change that.

With over £19.5 million invested in research to date - helping researchers secure over £60 million in additional funding - we have a proven track record of catalysing change. But we need more partners to scale our impact.



meningitis.org

#DefeatMeningitis

How you can help

By funding our research, you will:

- Drive cutting-edge vaccine research and public health interventions.
- Improve the quality of life for meningitis survivors, through better care and long-term support.
- Strengthen global disease surveillance to prevent future outbreaks.

We don't just fund research - we **enable, partner, and connect experts** worldwide to accelerate progress. With our international research conferences and seminars and a dedicated network of lived-experience advocates, we ensure that every project we support leads to real-world impact.

With your support, we can defeat meningitis. Together we can stop cases of meningitis, save lives and give survivors and their families the support they desperately need.