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What is ALS/ MND?

MND and ALS are different descriptions of the same disease.

The MND Association, which covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the ALS Association, which operates in the USA, do the same type of work. The only real difference is what we call the disease.

In the UK we use MND - motor neurone disease - and in the USA they use ALS - amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Both refer to a fatal, progressive disease that can rob people of the ability to speak, move and breathe. There is no cure.





So far, the ice bucket challenge has raised over £3million in the UK for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), and now Stephen Hawking, a well-known sufferer, has completed the dare with a twist.







The prominent physicist, who had a bout of pneumonia last year, said "it would not be wise for me to have a bucket of cold water pour over me... but my children Robert, Lucy and Tim gallantly volunteered to take the challenge for me."

He then urged everyone to donate to the MNDA to "eliminate this terrible disease".

In the family's driveway, his offspring took on the challenge before Hawking, 72, nominated the Director of the Science Musem, Ian Blatchford and the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University - Lord Sainsbury and Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz.





Raising

Support for awareness families & carers

Developing medication

Funding medical research

Practical help (adaptations to homes etc) Training