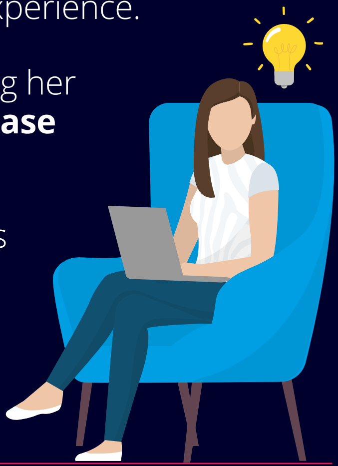
WE ARE M4RD AND WE

#daretothinkrare

Medics4RareDiseases (M4RD) provide **education** and **practical tools** targeted at **medical professionals**, helping to reduce the diagnostic odyssey and improve the patient experience.

M4RD was founded by Dr Lucy McKay following her first-hand experience of the **lack of rare disease education in the medical curriculum**.

Lucy and several like-minded medical students set up a society that would eventually **grow into M4RD**. The charity now has four paid employees and a talented and highly involved board of trustees.



WE AIM TO HELP THE RARE DISEASE COMMUNITY BY:

1. **Advancing the education of medics**, associated professionals and the public on rare diseases and genetic and genomic medicine

2. **Promoting research** in all areas relating to rare diseases and publishing the useful results

3. **Endorsing improved care and treatment** for those living with rare conditions

So, what are we doing to help make a difference?

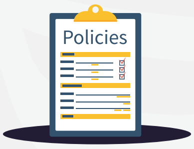
WE CREATED:

RARE 101

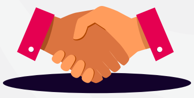
An online series of modules comprising interactive and multimedia lessons developed by M4RD and collaborators as a proof of concept – **that you can teach people the concepts relating to ~7000 rare diseases without going into the details of each**.

The current average enrolment rate is **30 new users per month**.

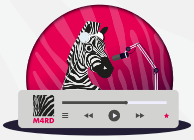
WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON:



Public policy engagement
and consultation

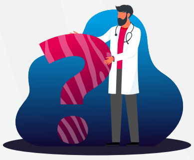


Building relationships with educational partners, such as Genomics England, Medscape and The Genomics Education Programme



The Rare Disease Podcast 4 Medics – complimenting Rare Disease 101

Training days and events for qualified medical professionals



The Unusual Suspects:
Rare disease in everyday medicine – M4RD's annual signature event in partnership with The RSM

The Student Voice Prize – An international essay competition, with the winning essay published in *Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases*

An Ambassador Scheme – Doctors, medical students and patients become ambassadors to participate in rare disease education and further our reach. They also enable us to test our materials and ensure they resonate with our audience

THE UK RARE DISEASES FRAMEWORK AND ITS PRIORITIES WILL BE REVIEWED IN 2026. **BEFORE THIS DEADLINE, M4RD WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING:**

- ☐ Receive CPD accreditation for Rare Disease 101
- ☐ Increase Rare Disease 101 enrolment and course completion by doctors and medical students
- ☐ Work with DoHSC's delivery partners to embed Rare Disease 101-type education in standard medical training
- ☐ Co-produce Rare Disease 101-type training with Royal Colleges
- ☐ Engage with more online educators
- ☐ Continue to advise the Department of Health and Social Care and its delivery partners on Priority 2 of the UK Rare Diseases Framework
- ☐ Produce training events for paediatric trainees and general practitioner trainees

DoHSC, Department of Health and Social Care.
RSM, Royal Society of Medicine.

Here at M4RD, we have a clear strategy to move forward with projects, **but we need funding to stay alive!** The work we do relies on the generous contributions of our sponsors, partners and donors who **we need to help make our mission a reality and tackle the unique problems we are aiming to address**.

If you would like to join us on our journey in driving an attitude change towards rare diseases, please visit https://www.m4rd.org/sponsors/ for further details or contact Jo McPherson directly at jo@m4rd.org.