**Award Descriptors and Eligibility**

**(Please find the application form at end)**

**Research Excellence Awards:**

**Rising Star Award**

Recognising an exceptional PhD student or postdoctoral researcher, up to three years after gaining their PhD, for remarkable success in their research career thus far.

This award is open to early career researchers who meet some or all the following criteria:

* Actively undertaking dementia research within a UK-based research institution, university, or NHS Trust;
* Demonstrate a consistent contribution to their own development as a dementia researcher;
* Recognised as a potential future leader in the field of dementia research;
* Producing high quality work that is reaching a wide audience;
* Actively working to increase their skills and knowledgebase through additional qualifications and/or experiential learning;
* Contributing to the future of dementia research by engaging with students at different educational levels.

**Future Dementia Leader Award**

Recognising an exceptional postdoctoral researcher, with more than three years’ experience post-PhD, for their contribution to the dementia research field.

This award is open to more senior early career researchers who meet some or all the following criteria:

* Actively undertaking dementia research within a UK-based research institution, university, or NHS Trust;
* Endorsed as a leading researcher by their institution (letter from institution required);
* Demonstrate a consistent contribution to their own development as a dementia researcher;
* Producing ground-breaking work that has been published by leading journals and presented at national and/or international conferences;
* Demonstrate how their skills and knowledgebase has been enhanced over the course of their research career through acquisition of additional qualifications and/or experiential learning;
* Actively supporting the growth and learning of junior dementia researchers, as well as engaging with students at different educational levels.

**People Awards:**

**The People’s Champion Award in honour of Kate McGowan**

Recognising an exceptional member of the dementia research community who has gone above and beyond to engage with people affected by dementia, and the general public, to further the aims of dementia research.

Kate McGowan joined Alzheimer’s Society as a volunteer in our Research Network in February 2012, having experience of dementia as a former carer for her mother. Kate was an immensely important and loved member of our team, as well as being a wise, warm, and kind friend. Over the 10 years Kate was in the Network, she completed 265 lay reviews and monitored 21 funded researchers through the lengths of their projects. Kate sat on the Grant Advisory Panel many times and dedicated her time to ensuring we funded the very best research for people affected by dementia.

Kate was incredibly dedicated to ensuring that patient and public involvement was at the heart of our research programme. She used her personal experience of dementia and her passion for research to ensure applicants, researchers, and fellow Network members were supported.

This award is in memory of Kate’s unwavering support for our Research Team at Alzheimer’s Society, and the researchers and network members she mentored and monitored over the years.

This award is to open to any dementia researcher who meets some or all the following criteria:

* Actively undertaking dementia research within a UK-based research institution, university, or NHS Trust;
* Outstanding inclusion of people affected by dementia, and the public, in dementia research; plus, exceptional support to facilitate the inclusion of people affected by dementia to take part in research;
* Consistent and continuous engagement with people affected by dementia, and the public, to promote dementia research;
* Actively using their platform as a dementia researcher to support other researchers to include people affected by dementia, and the public, in research.

**Research Community Award**

Recognising an exceptional member of the dementia research community who has gone above and beyond to support others; someone who has excelled in creating a supportive and encouraging academic environment.

This award is open to any dementia researcher, clinician, or institutional staff member who meets some or all the following criteria:

* Actively working from a UK-based research institution, university, or NHS Trust;
* Outstanding contribution to the development of a supportive and inclusive academic environment that enables colleagues, students, and researchers to thrive;
* Demonstrate key measures that have been implemented in their institution to safeguard the health and well-being of colleagues, students, and researchers;
* Actively promoting safe working practices that support the mental and physical well-being of colleagues, students, and researchers.

**Process for nominations**

All nominees must be actively working from a UK-based research institution, university, or NHS Trust.

The deadline for submission of nominations is Monday 1st May 2023 by 17:00 (GMT) and winners (one per category) will be announced in June 2023.

Completed application forms must be emailed to [DRL@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:DRL@alzheimers.org.uk)

All nominations must be made using the supplied form and contain a complete record of the merits and achievements, related to the award category, of the nominee. Any additional supporting letters must be submitted with the application form.

Any organisation, association, or individual may submit nominations.

For a nomination to be considered, all sections of the form relevant to the nominee must be completed. Incomplete nominations will be returned.

**Judging**

A panel of leading dementia researchers, experts by experience, and Alzheimer’s Society research team members will undertake the judging. Winning nominees will be notified of their success by the panel.

**Awards presentation**

The awards will be presented at Alzheimer’s Society’s Early Career Researcher Retreat 2023 – 26th-27th June at The Crowne Plaza, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The award ceremony will form part of the event’s closing session. Winners of the two Research Excellence Awards may have the opportunity to present their research at the event.

**Prizes**

All winning nominees will receive a commemorative plaque, certificate, and £1000 towards professional development activities (e.g., attendance at relevant conferences, undertaking professional training courses, research skill development through visiting other institutions, or relevant public outreach work).

**Research Excellence and People Awards 2023**

**Application Form**

**Return completed forms to** [**DRL@alzheimers.org.uk**](mailto:DRL@alzheimers.org.uk)

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| Q1. In order to nominate, the activity included in the nomination must have taken place from January 2022 onwards. Activities that started before this date can be included but we would like you to focus on relating activities that have occurred since January 2022. Has the activity of your nominee taken place since January 2022? |
| Yes  No |

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| Q2. Which award category are you nominating the researcher in? (Please only choose one category. If the researcher is eligible for multiple categories, then individual application forms must be completed for each category) |
| Rising Star  Future Dementia Leader  People’s Champion  Research Community |

**Nominee Details**

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| Q3. Who are you nominating? (Please be careful with spelling as the name written here will be used in any judging, marketing, and press) |
| **First name**  **Last name**  **Email address** |

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| Q4. Which university, institution, or research facility is your nominee affiliated with? |
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| Q5. What role does your nominee have within their institution? How long have they held this position for? |
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| Q6. Please provide your name and contact details |
| **First name**  **Last name**  **Email address** |

**Award Eligibility**

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| Q7. Please provide a summary of your nomination, including key points related to the award eligibility criteria that highlight why you are making this award nomination (max. 100 words) |
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| Q8. Please provide a more detailed explanation of how your nominee meets the award criteria, focusing on areas such as their impact within the dementia research field, and the contributions they have made to peers and colleagues (max. 300 words) |
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| Q9. Please indicate how your nominee has built meaningful relationships with people directly affected by dementia, or how their research activities have the possibility of positively impacting people affected by dementia (max. 200 words) |
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| Q10. Please use this section to add any additional information about your nominee that you feel is pertinent for the judging panel to be aware of, such as how you are connected to the nominee and what motivated you to make this nomination (max. 100 words) |
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**Additional Information**

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| Q11. How did you hear about Alzheimer’s Society’s Research Excellence and People Awards? |
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