

Challenges and solutions for the dementia research community

Findings of a report by RAND Europe, commissioned by Alzheimer's Society (2015)

UK strengths

The UK produces 12% of all dementia research publications



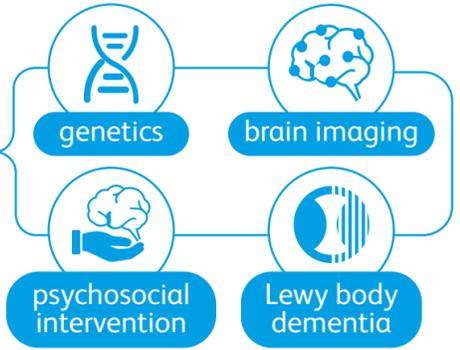
making us second in the world

Rising stars



20% of the most prolific researchers are still at post-doctoral and lecturer level

There are pockets of excellence in ...



Issues

Too few researchers choose to work on dementia

Dementia costs the UK economy **£26 billion a year** but the UK only invests **£74 million a year** in dementia research

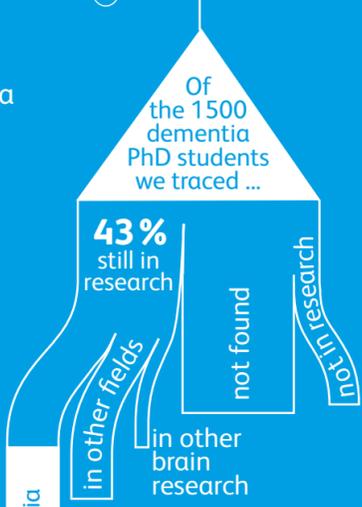
For every dementia researcher there are 5 researching cancer

"People may think there isn't much to be done for people with dementia."

"Attitudes act as a barrier to dementia research careers"

Many researchers leave dementia

70% of dementia PhD students leave the field within 4 years



"I really love the research but the pressure of constantly having to apply for money is putting me off."

"There are simply no lectureships to apply for."

Too few clinicians do dementia research

Barriers:

- Time
- Poor research training in medical education
- Short term research contracts
- Clinicians undervalued by universities
- Research undervalued in clinical settings

"Today, it's really hard to combine NHS work and research as I could in the past."

"Clinicians are stretched to the limit doing their daily job, so finding time for research is difficult"

There are not enough dementia care researchers

Fewer than



of the top 200 researchers specialise in social work and social care

There is a lack of

- investment in dementia care research
- junior research positions for care professionals

"It is difficult to develop research careers in the allied health professions"

"Working with people with dementia is still not seen as a career path of choice"

Solutions

To attract more researchers

- Change negative perceptions by celebrating success
- Doctoral training centres

To retain more researchers

- Rising stars programme
- Professional development and leadership training
- Bridge funding

To encourage clinicians to do research

- Raise the profile of dementia research in the NHS
- More flexible clinical fellowships

To support more care researchers

- More PhD opportunities for allied health and social care professionals



Since Jan 2014 we've ...



Invested **£6.5m** to support over **75** early career researchers



Established **8** doctoral training centres to support **52** PhD students



Developed a mentorship programme for early career researchers



Developed webinars for skills and career development



Supported 'Join dementia research' to boost participation in clinical trials

Data Source

Marjanovic et al. (2015) A review of the dementia research landscape and workforce capacity in the UK. Report by RAND Europe, available at www.rand.org/t/rr1186