



Brains for Dementia Research successful multi-million pound funding bid

Brains for Dementia Research (BDR) is funded by a partnership between two leading dementia charities: Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK) and Alzheimer's Society.

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded over **£2.5 million** to support the study for a further 3 years. This award reflects the importance of BDR to cutting edge dementia research both here in the UK and around the world, research which would not be possible without the amazing contribution made by our participants and their families.

BDR has a new Director...



Paul Francis

In April of this year, **Professor Paul Francis** stepped down from the role of Director of BDR. Paul has led the study since its inception in 2008 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul and his team for their hard work over the last 10 years!



Alan Thomas

Paul is succeeded by **Professor Alan Thomas**. In line with this change the Coordinating Centre is now located in Newcastle.

...and a new logo!



We wanted to design a new logo to illustrate the unique capability of the BDR network; six research centres working collectively to provide brain tissue, supporting first class global research into dementia.

The six colours of the logo represent our six research centres based in Manchester, Newcastle, Bristol, Cardiff, London and Oxford. **We hope you like it!**



Grip Strength Challenge



Michael Garrido



Joanna Kirk



Terence Tomkow

Your local study team will be in touch over the next 12 months to complete study follow-ups. As we have some new assessments, the team will once again be seeking your consent to continue participating in the study.

We believe that the new assessments won't be too time consuming but will greatly add to the value of the data collected.

We plan to assess for signs of frailty, including a measure of grip strength. We had representation at conferences held by the Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK and showcased this new measure, offering prizes of healthy "brain food" hampers. It was a lot of fun and here you can see some of our strong and worthy winners!



European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia (EPAD)

BDR are supporting the **European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia (EPAD)** study, a broadly supported, European-wide initiative working towards the prevention of Alzheimer's dementia.

The main EPAD study objectives are to:

- 1) Learn and understand better the factors involved in developing Alzheimer's dementia.
- 2) Develop new treatments more quickly which are hoped to prevent Alzheimer's dementia

The EPAD study has recently opened in Oxford and the study team are looking for volunteers who are:

- Aged or 50 over.
- Have no dementia diagnosis (volunteers may have a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment).
- Willing to consider taking part in drug trials in the future.
- Willing to travel to the Warneford Hospital in Oxford for study assessments including cognitive tasks, MRI brain scans and research samples.
- Have a study partner (a relative or friend who could accompany volunteers).

For further information, please contact the EPAD study team on: 01865 283806 or email

brainhealthresearch@psych.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Health 
NHS Foundation Trust



Newcastle

As well as dementia research the team have been hard at work fundraising. In May the team held a successful cupcake day in support of the Alzheimer's Society making a very tasty total of £102.71. In the same



month, many of our North East BDR participants enjoyed attending this years Alzheimer's Research UK **Public Event** held at Newcastle's Civic Centre. These events occur across the country. For further details, keep an eye on their website: alzheimersresearchuk.org/our-research/what-we-do/see-and-do-science/

Manchester



A team from the Alzheimer's Society recently paid a visit to the Manchester Brain Bank based at Salford Royal Hospital.

Rebecca Jones, Regional Community Fundraising Manager, described the brain bank as



"an incredible facility enabling fascinating and essential research to be undertaken by researchers across the country. One of the

highlights for me was Professor Mann demonstrating the differences between a brain from someone who has had Alzheimer's Disease with a healthy control brain. Seeing this really exemplified why research is so essential and why we need to be funding it as The Society does.

*To sum up our visit in one word; **inspiring.**"*

We hope you've enjoyed our newsletter and we look forward to featuring stories in our winter newsletter from our BDR Centres in Cardiff, Bristol and London.