



You are invited to a BDR Research Event

The **ENGAGEMENT EVENTS** are open to all BDR Study Participants and their Study Partners, BDR staff, researchers and anyone interested in the BDR Program. They will take place at each of the BDR Centres over the next 3 years, the first two being staged in London and in Oxford. The purpose of the events is primarily to **THANK** in person all those who through their support have made this project a success. We'd also like to create an opportunity for volunteers and researchers to meet, to share experiences and ideas, to discuss some of the work of BDR and to celebrate the progress made to-date. The events are free of charge and will include refreshments and lunch. The details of the first events in the spring of 2019 are outlined here but future events are being planned for Bristol and Cardiff (Spring 2020) and Manchester and Newcastle (Spring 2021) details of which will be made available in due course.

BDR is now closed to new recruitment, but researchers at **King's College** are seeking healthy volunteers from around the country to help with another of their studies; the **Protect Study**. If you are interested in learning more about this, information can be found on their website <http://protectstudy.org.uk/>



Newcastle BDR participant in the news

Wendy Mitchell, a BDR participant with the Newcastle Centre spoke at this years Alzheimer's Society Conference. She also blogs about her experiences with dementia and has included a piece about her BDR assessment!

<https://whichmeamitoday.wordpress.com/2016/06/02/brains-for-research-visit/>



in London

Date Weds 10th April 2019

Time 10:30 - 3:30

Venue Institute of Psychiatry

Although this is a free event, places are limited. If you would like to find out more about the event and register your attendance, please go to Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bdr-research-event-london-tickets-51818895712>

Alternatively, you can contact Siobhan Hurley by tel. **0207 848 0626** or email siobhan.hurley@kcl.ac.uk



in Oxford

Date Sat 16th March 2019

Time 11:00 - 3:00

Venue Mathematical Institute

Although this event is a free event places are limited. If you would like to find out more about the event and register your attendance, please go to: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bdr-research-event-oxford-tickets-54281829413?](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bdr-research-event-oxford-tickets-54281829413?aff=L2)

[aff=L2](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bdr-research-event-oxford-tickets-54281829413?aff=L2) Alternatively, you can contact the BDR team on **01865 234 608**

Cardiff Investigator aids researchers in accessing BDR data



Dr Rebecca Sims (left) is the Principal Investigator at the BDR Centre in Cardiff. Recently she submitted a proposal to "curate" the BDR data making it reliably retrievable for future research purposes.

Data curation is important as it makes it much easier for researchers to work with data. For example, if you can imagine books delivered to a library in boxes. If they are left in a pile, it would be pretty difficult to find anything or even to know where to look! To ensure that the books are accurately and readily accessible to the library users, librarians would need to unpack the boxes and then classify, catalogue and store the books appropriately. Rebecca's project intends to do similar work with the BDR data by not only organising it and putting it in a format useful to researchers but also by carrying out some early analysis to summarise some of the data findings and to develop special short-cuts known as syntax files. These help researchers by markedly reducing the time needed to carry out complex calculations. By undertaking this important "data-housekeeping", the information is much more readily available and usable and hence this work will further enhance the value of this precious resource.

Once the data has been curated it will be uploaded to **Dementias Platform UK (DPUK)**

www.dementiasplatform.uk/



DPUK is an ultra-secure data resource. It is funded by the Medical Research Council and provides researchers with access to vast amounts of anonymised data, not only from BDR but from dementia studies around the world. By sharing data we can accelerate large-scale international research and hasten the development of effective treatments for dementia. The map (right) shows the research locations to where BDR tissue has been sent thereby illustrating its global impact!



BDR Bristol lead the way in developing new diagnostic criteria



A wide range of disease processes can cause dementia, and they usually do so in combination. The term **vascular cognitive impairment (VCI)** is used when memory problems and thinking problems result from poor or reduced blood flow through the brain. Vascular dementia is a severe form of VCI.

Although doctors can use a range of tests to try to work out what disease processes may be going on in someone's brain to cause their dementia symptoms, it is only once someone has passed away that they can be fully accurate. When doctors look at someone's brain after they've died, they may see changes to the blood vessels in the brain along with damage to brain tissue nearby, suggesting that vascular disease was contributing to symptoms. However, these changes can also be seen in combination with other brain changes, such as the protein build-ups seen in Alzheimer's disease. Until recently, there were no clear guidelines for doctors assessing how blood vessel changes could be contributing to dementia symptoms. This makes it difficult for doctors and researchers trying to understand how blood vessel changes are contributing to dementia.

A group of researchers, led by a team at the University of Bristol, have been using tissue donated through Brains for Dementia Research to produce guidelines to help doctors assess blood vessel changes in the brain. They have produced a set of guidelines called the Vascular Cognitive Impairment Neuropathology Guidelines, which will help doctors assess and rate blood vessel changes in the brain and how these changes are linked with dementia symptoms. These guidelines are being used in brain banks across the UK and further afield, meaning that there are now standard ratings for vascular changes in the brain in dementia. This means that researchers can use brain tissue from different brain banks in their studies, helping to improve the quality of the research being done now and in the future.