

Study

[Provisional consensus on the nomenclature and operational definition of dementia at a young age, a Delphi study](#)

Forty-four experts responded and full consensus was reached on 22 out of 35 statements. Young-onset dementia emerged as the term of preference. Provisional consensus was found for the use of age 65 at symptom onset as preferred cut-off age. Consensus was reached on the inclusion of 15 out of 22 aetiologies and categories of aetiologies as potential cause for dementia at a young age.

Webinars

[Young onset dementia – improving the diagnosis process for people with atypical symptoms](#)

Our webinar at 12.30-1.30pm on Wednesday 15th March 2023 will be led by Nikki Zimmerman, Direct Support Lead, Rare Dementia Support alongside Dr Natalie Ryan, Consultant Neurologist. The webinar will focus on why specialist interventions and assessments are needed when young people present with non-memory led dementias. We will discuss the importance of expert knowledge and access to further investigations within a clinical setting. Plus how accessing information and guidance at an early stage can support families throughout the whole process.

[3 Zoom discussions to help inform the content of 'Young Onset Dementia: Reconsidered'](#)

You are invited to help inform the content of an upcoming book Young onset dementia: Reconsidered. The book is being edited by George Rook, who is living with young onset dementia, and Professor Jan Oyebode from the University of Bradford. It will have three sections focusing on key themes that are important to people living with young onset dementia:

- maintaining control over your life
- retaining a sense of identity
- feeling connected with others

The editors are holding three online sessions during March 2023 to discuss each theme with a group of no more than 12 people with dementia. Professionals or others who want to attend can join but will be asked to observe with their cameras and microphones off.

[Young onset dementia – changing perceptions of diagnosis](#)

Our webinar on Wednesday 8th February 2023 was led by Dr Susan Mitchell, Head of Policy at Alzheimer's Research UK, alongside a panel of experts. We considered how the preferences of people living with dementia, a shifting political landscape and advances in research and drug discovery can help the dementia diagnosis pathway evolve.

elderly vascular geriatrics
Alzheimer's environment
cognition early onset
fronto-temporal research
memory old age
dementia
lewy bodies support



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Online Course

[Preventing Dementia MOOC](#)

Preventing Dementia is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), offering university-quality education about the latest research in dementia risk and protective factors. The free course provides an opportunity to engage with the perspectives of a global community, without requiring exams or assignments.

News

[Could Alzheimer's be caused by an infection?](#)

Research into the disease has focused on plaques in the brain. But some scientists think viruses and bacteria play a role – and their work is gaining ground.

[Mike and Tom's story: "Caring for my husband and creating the LGBTQ+ Dementia Advisory group"](#)

Mike and Tom met aged 19. From the moment they started talking, they were together. Mike shares the impact dementia had on their marriage, and some of the challenges they faced as an LGBTQ+ couple. Mike is a founding member of the LGBTQ+ Dementia Advisory Group, which Dementia UK is part of.

[Nine in ten people want to know their brain disease risk](#)

New research has revealed that 91 per cent of people would take a simple test to learn about their risk of developing a brain disease. The anonymous online study, 'The Global Brain Health Survey', involved more than 27,500 people worldwide and was led by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in collaboration with the University of Oslo. The main findings were:

- 91 percent of respondents would definitely or probably take a simple test to learn about the risk of developing a brain disease.
- 86 percent would do so even if the disease could not be prevented or treated.

The findings were published in [Frontiers in Public Health](#).

[New study uncovers why connections in the brain are lost during Alzheimer's disease](#)

Research led by [Dr Soyon Hong](#) (UK DRI at UCL) has uncovered a new molecular mechanism underlying synapse loss in Alzheimer's disease. The study, [published in Nature Neuroscience](#), could provide new targets for future drug discovery. In the new study, Dr Sebastiaan De Schepper, a postdoctoral fellow in the Hong lab and a Sir Henry Wellcome fellow, identified a role for a protein known as SPP1, or osteopontin, in mediating the loss of synapses in mouse models of Alzheimer's.

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[175 devices to help people with dementia enter assistive technology awards](#)

New assistive technology aimed at improving the independence of people with dementia is on the horizon. The Longitude Prize on Dementia has received a total of 175 applications from innovators globally. Solutions entered ranged from smart wearables, such as smart gloves that learn from the environment of the user to help prompt routines; cognitive interventions, such as virtual reality games with reminiscing opportunities; and smart home devices, such as in-home avatars for AI chat companions.

[Developing a functional circuit biomarker for Alzheimer's disease](#)

With most cognitive measures declining too late in disease to be useful, and the presence of amyloid beta alone proving an unreliable predictor of symptom onset, there is an unmet need for a new type of biomarker that can accurately diagnose the earliest stages of Alzheimer's. This grand challenge is the subject of a new £1.7 million investment from UK DRI led by UKRI Future Leader Fellow and UK DRI Group Leader at UCL, [Dr Marc Aurel Busche](#). In this highly collaborative project, involving multiple experts from outside the dementia field, the team aims to develop a functional biomarker that measures subtle changes to the brain's circuitry at an early stage of Alzheimer's, and before the tipping point into irreversible cognitive decline.

[First treatment hopes for targeting strokes linked to dementia](#)

Two cheap and common drugs could be re-purposed as the first specific treatment for people who experience a type of stroke linked to nearly half of all dementias, according to the results of a trial led by [Prof Joanna Wardlaw](#) (UK DRI at Edinburgh), presented at the American Heart Association International Stroke Conference.