

## News

### [Response to the NHS dementia diagnosis target cuts](#)

Alzheimer's Society responds to the dementia diagnosis rate target (that 66.7% of people living with dementia in England should have a diagnosis) being removed from the [NHS Operational Planning Guidance for 2025-6](#).

### [Trial for blood tests to diagnose dementia accepts first participants](#)

A nationwide clinical trial aiming to revolutionise how dementia is diagnosed is now underway. Research teams will assess how blood tests could be used to detect dementia at various stages.

### [How dementia could be linked to air pollution in early life](#)

[Researchers in Scotland](#) have found patterns in health data that suggest that air pollution breathed by children may affect their chances of getting dementia in later life.

### [Study reveals how lifelong exercise could protect against dementia](#)

A team at University College London (UCL) has found a link between regular physical activity throughout life and changes in the brain which could help protect people from developing dementia.

### [AI could help diagnose dementia through eye tests](#)

Scottish researchers are working on a new AI tool that could be used by high-street opticians to spot the early signs of dementia. Photographs taken of the retina at the back of the eye can give an indication of brain health, and by using AI software to analyse the information, scientists may be able to spot signs of disease before any symptoms are experienced.

### [Antibiotics, antivirals and vaccines could help tackle dementia, study suggests](#)

Antibiotics, antivirals and vaccines could be used to tackle dementia, according to experts, who say repurposing drugs approved for other conditions could dramatically speed up the hunt for a cure. [In new research](#) led by Cambridge and the University of Exeter, researchers examined studies which linked commonly used drugs to dementia risk. They analysed data from 14 studies that tracked the health of more than 130 million people and involved 1m cases of dementia. They also analysed prescription data and identified several drugs that appeared to be linked to dementia risk.

### [Rare Space Cultural Programme](#)

Rare Dementia Support (RDS) is leading a three-year Rare Space Cultural Programme to define and express the 'cultural life' of RDS for its members, team and community. It is designed to enable more people affected by a rare dementia diagnosis to engage in creative activities with a view to helping them continue to live meaningful lives and experience joy and connection.

### [Covid-19 infection linked to increase in blood levels of abnormal brain proteins](#)

An analysis led by Prof Paul Matthews and Dr Eugene Duff at the UK DRI at Imperial found that people who had previously had Covid-19 were more likely to have increased levels of blood biomarkers linked to faulty amyloid proteins – a known hallmark for Alzheimer's disease. The findings are [published in the journal Nature Medicine](#).



**Mersey Care**  
NHS Foundation Trust

3 February 2025

### [Researchers awarded ARIA funding for future adoption of neurotechnologies](#)

ARIA's new [Precision Neurotechnologies programme](#) will unite the frontiers of engineered biology and hardware to treat many of the most complex and devastating brain disorders affecting individuals and communities worldwide. A team led by Associate Professor Melanie Fleming, with co-investigators from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and University College London, aims to overcome barriers to translation of brain stimulation technologies for patient care. By seeking input from patients and the public as well as clinicians, researchers, ethicists, and industry experts, the team will develop a roadmap of recommendations that can be used to develop, improve and implement brain stimulation technologies for conditions such as stroke, depression and dementia.

## Public Advice

### [Advice for supporting people with young-onset dementia after Pauline Quirke's diagnosis](#)

A dementia expert shares advice on spotting the signs of young-onset dementia, also sometimes referred to as early-onset dementia, following actor Pauline Quirke's diagnosis.

## Webinar

### [Advance care planning and young onset dementia](#)

Our webinar on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 12-1pm is a collaboration between the Young Dementia Network and the Young Onset Dementia Knowledge Centre, Netherlands.

## Conference

### [Research Conference - Alzheimer's Research UK](#)

The Alzheimer's Research UK Research Conference is taking place on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February 2025 at ICC Birmingham and online. The conference provides a chance to gain insights from colleagues working across basic, translational and clinical dementia research. (NB a standard ticket costs £175 for online access, an in-person ticket costs £315).

