

5 August 2025

# News

#### Al performs as well as traditional methods at identifying Alzheimer's risk genes

A new study led by Prof Valentina Escott-Price (UK DRI at Cardiff) reveals artificial intelligence can match traditional methods in predicting Alzheimer's risk. The research, <u>published in Nature Communications</u>, is the first to test this method on a large scale.

# Alzheimer's Research Advances at AAIC 2025

New research results reported at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® 2025 (AAIC®) are advancing what we know about risk, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

## Results from trontinemab Phase II trial presented at AAIC

Results from Roche's Phase Ib/Ila trial of <u>new Alzheimer's drug trontinemab</u> have been presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Toronto. The trial, known as Brainshuttle<sup>TM</sup> AD, found nine in 10 people prescribed trontinemab experienced amyloid clearance within 28 weeks, meaning visible markers of disease had vanished. Roche announced its plans for Phase III studies to kick off this year in people with both early symptomatic and preclinical Alzheimer's.

#### SNAP Benefits Linked to Slower Cognitive Decline

People who participated in the U.S. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) had slower cognitive decline over 10 years than those who didn't participate, according to new research being reported at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® 2025 (AAIC®), in Toronto and online.

## New Clinical Practice Guideline for Blood-Based Biomarkers

In a landmark step toward transforming Alzheimer's disease diagnosis in specialty care, the Alzheimer's Association today released its first clinical practice guideline (CPG) on the use of blood-based biomarker (BBM) tests. The guideline is being reported at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® 2025 (AAIC®) in Toronto and online, and published in Alzheimer's & Dementia®: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association.

# U.S. POINTER Lifestyle Intervention Improved Cognition

The Alzheimer's Association U.S. Study to Protect Brain Health Through Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Risk (U.S. POINTER) — a two-year, multi-site clinical trial testing two different lifestyle interventions in a representative population of older adults at risk for cognitive decline and dementia — found that both interventions improved cognition in older adults at risk of cognitive decline. Trial participants in the structured (STR) intervention showed greater improvement on global cognition compared to the self-guided (SG) intervention, protecting cognition from normal age-related decline for up to two years. The STR intervention differed from the SG intervention in intensity, structure, accountability and support provided.

#### Starting conversations about dementia

We explain why talking about dementia is so important and ways that you can start a conversation about dementia with family and friends.











# <u>Dementia Trials Accelerator partners with REACT and Inuvi to streamline recruitment for</u> dementia clinical trials

The <u>Dementia Trials Accelerator</u>, an initiative led by <u>Health Data Research UK</u> (HDR UK) and the <u>UK Dementia Research Institute</u> (UK DRI), joins forces with the <u>Real-time Assessment of Community Transmission (REACT) programme</u> and <u>Inuvi</u>, to fast-track the identification and recruitment of volunteers for dementia related clinical trials.

## Air pollution raises risk of dementia, say Cambridge scientists

Exposure to certain forms of air pollution is linked to an increased risk of developing dementia, according to the most comprehensive <u>study</u> of its kind. The illness is estimated to affect about 57 million people worldwide, with the number expected to increase to at least 150m cases by 2050.

#### Men, Women and the Effects of Stress on the Brain

The death of a partner, the loss of a job and money worries are among the major life stressors that may increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease in middle age and beyond. But chronic stress may affect the brains of men and women in different ways, altering the likelihood that someone will ultimately develop dementia, two new reports suggest.

#### Pain Reliever Tied to Higher Dementia Risk

A popular pain reliever used to treat back pain and other conditions has been tied to a heightened risk for dementia, according to a new report. Researchers found that adults who took the medication, gabapentin, to relieve persistent low back pain were significantly more likely to develop dementia or other cognitive problems than their peers with chronic back pain who were not given the drug.

## EMA recommends marketing authorization for donanemab (Kisunla)

The European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has issued a positive opinion recommending donanemab (Kisunla) for the treatment of early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease in adults with confirmed amyloid pathology who are apolipoprotein E £4 (ApoE4) heterozygotes or non-carriers. The European Commission is expected to make a regulatory decision on donanemab in the coming months. This is a reversal of an earlier recommendation.

# **Charity Event**

#### Peer support groups for younger people launch in Sefton and Liverpool

Together in Dementia Everyday (tide) and Alzheimer's Society are working together to provide monthly peer support groups in Liverpool and Sefton for younger people with dementia and their family members. The groups which meet at the <u>Guest House Pub</u>, Union Street, Southport, PR9 OQE and <u>Liverpool Central Library</u>, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW will provide an opportunity to connect with others for mutual support, information sharing, fun and delicious biscuits!













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# **Webinars**

# <u>Dementia UK Summer School – young onset dementia session recordings</u>

Dementia UK's annual Summer School, which aims to improve practice in and knowledge of dementia care, took place in July and included sessions on the <u>unique support needs of families</u> <u>living with young onset dementia</u> and on <u>supporting children and young people living in families</u> <u>affected by dementia</u>. Watch recordings of the sessions via the links.

## Social care for young onset dementia: raising social workers' awareness

This webinar taking place on Wednesday 15th October 2025 from 12.30-1.30pm will introduce a resource that has been co-produced to improve social workers' understanding of young onset dementia, so that they are in a better position to respond effectively to those living with or supporting someone with the condition.

# Social care for young onset dementia: the financial impact

This webinar taking place on Wednesday 19th November 2025 from 12.30-1.30pm will highlight the the role of social care in enabling families affected by young onset dementia to plan for and cope with the financial challenges. It will introduce a resource that has been co-produced to help commissioners of services, social care, dementia services and third sector professionals to appreciate the impact of young onset dementia on finances and how vital it is to have responsive, co-ordinated services. The aim is to motivate commissioners and all those developing and delivering local services to ensure they provide effective support for people with young onset dementia and their families to manage their financial situation.

# **Video**

# Share your experiences - the reality of young onset dementia

The Young Dementia Network asked its members to share their experiences of young onset dementia, asking questions around diagnosis, the symptoms that most affect daily life and the impact of the condition on the person and their family. Some of the replies have been collated into a short animation which shares Network members' experiences in their own words.









