

Brains for Dementia Research

<https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/nl/cohort/brains-for-dementia-research/>

Cohort Acronym

BDR

Cohort type

General population-based cohort

Disease

Alzheimer's disease, Dementia (unclassified), Frontotemporal dementia, Mild cognitive impairment (MCI), Vascular dementia

Participant type

No diagnosis

Profile

Recruitment Period Unlimited

Sample size at start or planned sample size if still recruiting 3200

Estimated Current Sample Size 0 to 4,999

Age at Recruitment 65

Gender Male and Female

Abstract

There are over 800,000 people with dementia in the UK today, and this figure is set to double in the next 30 years. Dementia has a huge impact on a person's life and is one of society's most urgent health and social care challenges. Despite this, treatment for dementia is very limited and there is no cure.

Human tissue is vital for dementia research but is currently in short supply and is not covered in standard organ donation schemes. With the support of Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK, Brains for Dementia Research was set up in 2007 to establish a network of brain bank facilities across England and Wales.

It is now a 'gold standard' for brain tissue banking, linking six leading centres (based in London, Oxford, Newcastle, Bristol, Manchester and Cardiff) in a network of common standards, best practice and cooperation. This lays the foundation to enable the highest quality dementia research, which aims to find a cure for dementia. In each bank, people with mild cognitive impairment or a diagnosis of dementia, and healthy participants, are supported to donate their brain by specialist research nurses.

This initiative is unique from other brain banks, as the memory, thinking and behaviour of each prospective donor are monitored throughout their later life through regular assessments. This provides researchers with a complete medical history to accompany the donated brain tissue, allowing them to see how brain changes correlate with symptoms.

Last update – 09/05/2018

Country United Kingdom

Contact details

Institution name Brains for Dementia Research Coordinating Centre

Website <http://brainsfordementiaresearch.co.uk/brain-donation/>

Principal Investigator (PI) Professor Alan Thomas

Contact email BDR.Coordinatingcentre@ncl.ac.uk

Contact phone number +44 (0) 191 208 2109

Funders (Core support) Alzheimer's Society

Alzheimer's Research UK

Variables Collected

Brain related measures:

Behaviour, Cognitive function, Mental health, Neurological

Functional rating:

Individual psychological

Anthropometric:

Blood pressure, Hip circumference, Waist circumference

Physical:

Hearing and Vision

Biological samples:

Blood, Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF), Other

Genotyping:

N/A

Brain imaging:

N/A

Brain banking:

Consent for brain donation

Lifestyle:

Alcohol, Dietary habits, Physical activity, Smoking

Socio-economic:

Occupation and employment

Health service utilisation:

Formal health and social care service utilisation including private care