

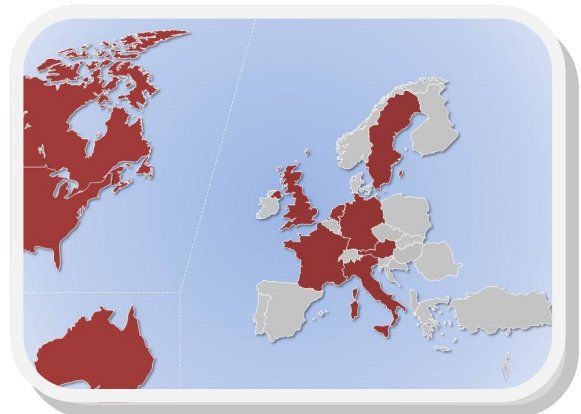
Longitudinal Cohorts

Realising the potential of cohort studies to determine the vascular contribution to neurodegeneration

The brain needs a very good blood supply to receive enough energy and oxygen and to remove waste products, otherwise it stops working properly. Problems in the brain blood vessels are common as people get older. As well as causing stroke, it is probable that about a third of all dementias are due to vessel disease. Unfortunately, this vascular contribution to brain damage has not been studied as much as Alzheimer's disease, so we know little about how to treat it.

This project brings together experts in brain vessel diseases and dementia from all over Europe, plus North America, Australia, Singapore and China. The final result will be a detailed list of studies that include information on brain vessel disease, cognition, and long term outcomes. This data sharing 'platform' will enable us to make better use of existing data, identify gaps in knowledge which require new studies, see if brain vessel disease differs around the world, and encourage multicentre clinical trials to prevent vessel problems that lead to dementia. The implications for society are considerable: people are living longer, dementia is increasing, and we need to understand better how the brain vessel diseases damage the brain if we are to prevent dementia.

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