Researchfish® is an essential platform for Alzheimer’s Research UK to measure and report the impact of our funding on the dementia research landscape. By providing information throughout your grant you are helping us to communicate research progress and to secure further funding. During our last submission period (February-March 2020), we received updates on 228 grants. From publications to assays and public engagement, here are some of the highlights reported.

A leader in dementia research

This year, Dr Tammaryn Lashley from University College London (UCL) was appointed Director of Research at Queen Square Brain Bank, as well as obtaining an extension to her ARUK Senior Fellowship and an established position at UCL. Prof Lashley said: “I’m in debt to those who have donated their brains for dementia research. My work involves using the body’s most precious organ to better understand what starts to go wrong in diseases like Alzheimer’s. I hope that my research will identify new ways to tackle the disease and find a cure. Alzheimer’s Research UK has supported me throughout my career and area major funder of my current work.”

Forging new collaborations

In 2019, our researchers established 50 new collaborations - bringing us to a total of 403 partnerships with 153 partners across all sectors and from countries all around the world.
Expanding our knowledge

Since 2010, the number of publications acknowledging ARUK has tripled (Dimensions®). This year, researchers funded by ARUK reported a total of 286 publications, with 114 of them being open-access. 102 different journals were used by our researchers, with Alzheimer’s & Dementia, Acta Neuropathologica and the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease being the most common.

![Graph showing the number of publications from 2010 to 2020](image)

**Leveraging funds**

The 228 reports we received represent £50 million in ARUK grants. So far, researchers have reported £217 million in leveraged funds. For every £1 committed, our researchers have leveraged £4.37 in further funding, allowing research to progress even further.

**Driving dementia research with new tools and methods**

Our researchers reported 21 new research tools or methods in 2019. Many of these resources have already been shared and utilised by others in the field.

- **8** New assays
- **3** New cell lines
- **3** New animal models
- **3** New imaging tools
- **3** New analysis tools
- **1** New clinical tool

**Case Study: New method for diagnosing dementia in Down’s syndrome patients**

A dementia diagnosis can be a challenging process, in particular for those with pre-existing developmental disabilities. Prof Anthony Holland’s team at the University of Cambridge are currently revising the CAMDEX assessment – CAMDEX-DS – which was designed to aid the diagnosis of dementia in people with Down’s syndrome. The revised assessment will improve diagnostic accuracy and provide better cognitive assessments to determine decline over time.
Measuring recognition of our researchers

In 2019, the efforts of ARUK-funded researchers were recognised 82 times through awards and conferences. 51 grants involved international recognition or awards, including 6 research prizes, which highlights the impact of ARUK-funded research globally.

Case Study: Prof Maria-Grazia Spillantini was awarded the internationally recognised Thudicum medal from the Biochemical Society which honours eminent scientists who have made outstanding contributions to neuroscience and related subjects. Prof Spillantini was recognised for her seminal work on alpha-synuclein and tau.

Broadcasting our research

Our researchers have reported a total of 741 engagement activities both locally and internationally. Engagement with the wider audience is vital to ensure dementia is recognised as a key priority across all sectors of society and achieve our charity goal of confronting misconceptions about dementia.

Case Study: Detangling the knots

Dr Mariana Vargas-Caballero provided scientific insight as an academic collaborator on the project ‘Detangling the Knots’. The project was developed by artist Barbara Touati-Evans (pictured) as a visual representation of tau tangles using crochet. Using the expertise of ARUK-funded scientists like Mariana, Barbara was able to present tau tangles in a way which could be understood by all. You can read more about the project here: https://letscrochetuk.wordpress.com/starting-detangling-the-knots/

Remember: you can add outputs to your Researchfish portfolio at any time during the year. Our next formal submission period will be February-March 2021.