ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK NETWORK GRANT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDANCE

This Expression of Interest form is a call for the application of a Network. Awards are expected to commence January 2027.

We define a Network as: *"a researcher-led group of dementia researchers brought together around a shared scientific and/or cultural focus to deliver activities that strengthen collaboration, researcher development and research culture."*

GRANT CALL PROCESS

This funding call will follow a two-stage process:

- **Stage 1 (Expression of Interest - EOI):** Applicants will submit their expression of interest forms, containing their proposed network, its focus, rationale, committee, and a breakdown of its costs.
- **Stage 2 (Full Application):** Applicants will be invited to submit a grant application, if they are successful in the EOI stage.

To be considered for Stage 2, please **complete the EOI form** below and return to research@alzheimersresearchuk.org **by midday (11:59 AM BST) on the 1st of September 2026.**

Invites for Stage 2 will be sent in September 2026.

All UK-based dementia researchers are eligible to apply, provided they are employed by a research organisation and eligible to apply per institutional policy. I**nternational researchers may collaborate** and/or be part of the leadership team.

The Expression of Interest form will be used to identify applications to be invited to full application, ensuring that proposals are ambitious, have clear potential for impact, avoid unnecessary thematic overlap, and a strong rationale.

Alzheimer's Research UK reserves the right to invite applications subject to conditions, including asking applicants to merge proposals where they represent the same theme.

NETWORK REQUIREMENTS

Alzheimer's Research UK is looking to fund Networks that focus on a theme that fulfils one or more of the following categories:

- **Scientific**: focused on a specific research theme, methodology, or discipline, drawing together expertise from across institutions, regardless of geography, to strengthen collaboration and advance dementia research.

- **Research Culture**: focused on high-impact activities that strengthen research culture, including EDI, community engagement, PPIE, ECR development, and support for geographical communities, with the aim of embedding and sharing these values with the wider community.

This Network grant is expected to fund innovative and ambitious networks, with a clear impact for dementia researchers and/or the dementia research field. The funding can be used for salary, travel and other running costs**,** with a successful application receiving an allocation of the funding pot for up to 5 years. We anticipate making awards of up to £200,000 per year, for up to five years. Larger proposals may still be considered where there is a clear rationale and strong justification for the level of funding requested

Funding may support activities, such as (but not limited to):

- Scientific meetings, workshops and networking events
- Training and development opportunities for early career researchers
- Public involvement and engagement activities
- Equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives
- Travel costs (for meetings or academic visits)
- Digital resources, communications and dissemination activities
- Other reasonable costs required to deliver the Network's programme

All Networks are expected to have a leadership team that includes individuals with appropriate seniority, and expertise to convene the field, provide strategic oversight and deliver the proposed Network, while also ensuring meaningful involvement and development opportunities for early career researchers. There should be nominated leads for PPIE and EDI, who will be asked to contribute to associated initiatives alongside other leads.

All Networks will be expected to share resources and content with the wider community. Alzheimer's Research UK will support dissemination.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CRITERIA

A strong Expression of Interest should demonstrate the following:

Theme and focus

- A clear, compelling and ambitious scientific theme, challenge or capability focus.
- Clear alignment with the Alzheimer's Research UK Research Strategy, including how the network will strengthen collaboration, researcher development and research culture.

Rationale and added value

- A clear rationale for why the network is needed, including the gap, opportunity or unmet need it will address and the added value it will bring beyond existing structures or mechanisms.

Scientific connectivity

- A clear approach to connecting disciplines, sectors and areas of research that do not typically work together across dementia research.
- Meaningful opportunities to connect different parts of the research pipeline, such as, from discovery through to translation, implementation and lived-experience-informed research where relevant.
- Practical mechanisms to enable the flow of knowledge, data and people across the Network, accelerating collaboration, shared learning and capability.

Activities and impact

- Ambitious, high-quality activities that enable collaboration and co-creation, deliver meaningful scientific impact and/or wider value to the dementia research community, and add value by complementing rather than duplicating existing activity.
- A clear plan to create sustained interactions, supported by mechanisms for scientific connection such as shared platforms, co-created outputs or embedded partnerships.

Leadership and structure

- A well-supported leadership structure with the appropriate expertise, including representation from early career researchers and a clear commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and to patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE).
- The ability to convene and sustain an engaged and collaborative nationwide research network.
- A commitment to sharing learning, resources and outputs with the wider community.