



**SPIN-D**  
**NETWORK+**

Sustainable Prevention,  
Innovation and Involvement  
for Dementia

# Welcome to the November 2025 edition of the SPIN-D Network+ Newsletter

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## Our First Year in Review

It has been a productive 12 months for the network since its [launch on 4 November 2024](#). We are pleased to share selected highlights from the past year, including our first [sandpit event](#) in March and an exciting [conference-festival](#) in July. Round 1 of our [Flexible Funding initiative](#) has now been awarded. Also for our Early Career Researchers, we [partnered with the INTERDEM Academy](#). Our Co-production and Involvement team developed a [comprehensive new resource](#) and launched the [Connecting Communities and Dementia podcast](#). SPIN-D members represented the network at key events throughout the year, including the [Norwich Science Festival](#) in February and the [35th Alzheimer Europe Conference](#) in Bologna in October.

Read on for more highlights from the past year and details of our upcoming November event.

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## Featured Highlights



## Let's talk Dementia: Fiction, Fact and Hope

Find out how our [\*\*Festival of Science and Arts of Brain Health and Dementia\*\*](#) unfolded in July. We've shared a photo gallery capturing the community spirit of the event. You can also read reflections on the [\*\*Textiles for Cultural Connection\*\*](#) and [\*\*Gardening\*\*](#) workshops, as well as the [\*\*Film Festival\*\*](#), or watch selected films and seminars on our [\*\*YouTube playlist\*\*](#).

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## **SPIN-D Network+ Collaboration with the Lewisham Youth Brain Health Project**

[Read the Blog](#)

[Listen to the Four-Episode Podcast on YouTube](#)

Seeking to empower young people as advocates for dementia prevention, the Youth Involvement and Engagement Lab, the Lewisham Young Mayor and Young Advisors Team, and SPIN-D Network+ jointly secured funding from Alzheimer's Research UK's Inspire Fund to deliver the Lewisham Youth Brain Health Project — a six-month pilot aimed at raising awareness of brain health and dementia prevention across the South East London borough.

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**“Maybe that’s why I’m sitting around this table, today: Because I’ve learned so much.”**

Our Co-production and Involvement team came together to reflect on their experiences of being part of SPIN-D over the past year, discussing what they learned, what worked well, and what could be improved.

[Read the Blog](#)

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## Flexible Funding Announcement

SPIN-D is pleased to announce the [first round of projects awarded](#) through the Flexible Funding initiative for Early Career Researchers.

Applications were reviewed and selected by a panel of SPIN-D members, including co-leads, strategic partners, and representatives from our core lived experience group.

In total, eleven projects received funding across two schemes: *Inclusion in Practice* and *Proof of Principle*.

### Inclusion in Practice

**SAFE-D (Supporting & Advancing Falls and Fracture Evidence in Dementia)**, Dr Leanne Greene, University of Exeter.

**My Story, My Future: Empowering people with dementia to document**

### Proof of Principle

**Generative AI for Brain health (GABI): empowering older adults to adopt healthy lifestyle changes**, Sara Di Stefano, University of Stirling.

**Using Electronic Health Records to identify the presence and effect of**

**future care needs**, Martha Pusey,  
*University of Portsmouth.*

**SPEAK: SPEech and language  
therapy clinic for people with  
Primary Progressive Aphasia and  
student Knowledge development**,  
*Dr Anna Volkmer, University College  
London.*

**Olfaction, ageing and dementia:  
Building a collaborative network to  
advance research and innovation**,  
*Dr Federica D'Andrea, University of  
West London.*

**My Home, My Garden Story**, Dr  
*David Dobson, University of York*

**Co-designing a communication  
support decision-aid for non-  
specialist speech and language  
therapists working with people with  
dementia in community  
settings**, Anna Hockley, University  
*College London.*

**dementia risk factors across  
different subtypes**,  
*Dr Megan Rose Readman, University  
of Liverpool.*

**Prevention in pre and early  
dementia through Improving  
Safety of Medicine prescribing  
(Prevent-ISM)**, Dr Katrina A. S. Davis,  
*King's College London.*

**Active Lives, Agile Minds: A pilot  
study evaluating the Movement  
Inspired by Martial Arts (MIMA)  
programme**, Dr Zsotia Szekeres,  
*Cardiff Metropolitan University*

**A consultation study on disclosing  
dementia risk in research  
studies**, Dr Zunera Khan, King's  
*College London.*

A second round of calls for each scheme is scheduled to open at the beginning of 2026. [Join our network](#) to receive email updates and follow us on social media for the latest news and announcements.

[Learn more about the SPIN-D Network+ Flexible Funding Initiative](#)

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## Upcoming Event

**13 November 2025, 1:00 pm GMT / 2:00 pm CET**

**SPIN-D and INTERDEM Academy interactive session** for early- and mid-career researchers. Online on Zoom.  
To register, email [e.paremain@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:e.paremain@exeter.ac.uk).

Additional events hosted, attended, or represented by members of the network, are listed on the **SPIN-D Network+ Calendar**.

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## The Dementia Network Plus Initiative

**SPIN-D Network+** is one of four Dementia Network Plus initiatives jointly funded by the Alzheimer's Society, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, part of UK Research and Innovation), and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

Learn more about **EMPOWER Network+**

Learn more about **EQUADEM Network+**

Learn more about **Working with Dementia Network+**



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