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SPIN-D
NETWORK+

Sustainable Prevention,
Innovation and Involvement
for Dementia

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the SPIN-D Network+ Newsletter

Our newsletter this month includes a new video sharing tips for developing funding proposals, upcoming events, and news from across the dementia network plus initiative.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bettina Wallace (SPIN-D co-applicant) for making the cover of the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) East Midlands 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science' feature. [Read more here.](#)

Congratulations to Martin Robertson (SPIN-D co-applicant) and Faye Watson (EMPOWER Network Plus) on being awarded £5,000 from Alzheimer's Research UK for their project 'Mind our Farmers'. [Learn more here.](#)

[Video] Top Tips for Research Project Development for Funding Proposals

new project proposal and grant application as a discussion chaired by Prof Georgina Charlesworth.

Martin is talking at an early career event run by SPIN-D and INTERDEM Academy about the 2026 round of flexible funding from SPIN-D, which is [open to funding application until 31st March 2026.](#)

Martin talks about how to find the right people to collaborate with, how to define and structure your research question and link it clearly with the methodology.

Martin and Georgina are also joined in conversation by Prof Chris Fox, Prof Jackie Parkes and Dr Katrina Davis talking about INTERDEM Academy, building research plans, network and finding suitable collaborators, and resilience within the world of funded research.



Spotlight on LGBTQIA+ and Dementia Event

Some photos from the event held in London on Wednesday, 25th February. A fantastic turnout and energy in the space. We will share learnings and resources from the event, soon.



SPIN-D Network Plus Special Interest Group on Rural and Coastal Communities

The SPIN-D Network Plus Rural and Coastal Special Interest Group is set up with support from Empower Network Plus to connect people with lived experience, community organisations, practitioners and researchers focused on brain health, dementia prevention and dementia support in rural, remote, island and coastal communities.

opportunities (including walking groups), collaborate on funding bids, and develop a collective voice to support evidence-led policy and service change.

[Read more and find out how to get involved](#)

Upcoming Events

SPIN-D Engaged Partners Forum

Thursday, 26 February 2026

9am - 10:30 am (UK time)

Online

We are establishing a SPIN-D Network+ Engaged Partners Forum. The aim of the Forum is to bring together organisations that we work with and whose purpose is aligned with the network, including **Not for Profit, local dementia support groups and Industry partners and tech companies**. We want to identify topics for collaboration, research gaps, and further ways in which we can mutually support each other.

To register your interest and attendance in this event, please email spindnetworkplus@live.ucl.ac.uk.

You are welcome to ask a colleague or representative of your organisation to attend.

NHS Research Scotland Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Event

Tuesday, 3 March 2026

University of Stirling

SPIN-D members have had a poster accepted and will be attending.

Poster title:

Learning from Four Sides: Meaningful Co-production and Involvement in Research and Partnership Development

(SPIN-D Co-applicant / Core Lived Experience Group), Rachael Litherland (Strategic Co-production Partner), Debra Gingell (Public Involvement) and Dr Clare Hammerton (Co-production and Involvement Approach).

Further information about the event is available on the [NHS Research Scotland website](#).

Register now: SPIN-D Data for Dementia Event

Thursday, 5 March 2026

9am - 11am (UK time)

Online

We're pleased to invite you to Data for Dementia, an online event exploring how a range of data resources can be used to support data science projects in dementia and cognitive ageing research.

The session will introduce several UK and international datasets (including large population studies and digital cohorts), including PROTECT, share examples of how these data are being used in research and discuss good practice for meaningfully involving people with lived experience of dementia in data-driven research.

This event is aimed at **researchers, data scientists, students, and others interested in working with dementia-related data, whether they are new to the area or looking to broaden their approach.**

Further details and registration on the Dementia Researcher website:
<https://www.dementiaresearcher.nihr.ac.uk/event/spin-d-data-for-brain-health-and-dementia/>

Sharing Insights from Claremont's Brain Health Pilot Programme

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

11:30am - 1pm (UK time)

The Claremont Project, London N1 9PD

how community centres like Claremont might support brain health in later life.

The event will include a presentation from the Claremont team, followed by a panel discussion with Ben Williams, Programme Manager at Islington Council leading on the Dementia Strategy and the Age-Friendly Communities projects.

By sharing some key recommendations for friends and community partners, we hope to initiate a conversation on how community arts organisations could contribute to protecting brain health in older people, and share what resources are needed to make this work well in practice.

If you'd like to join us, please [register here using our RSVP form](#).

Additional events hosted, attended, or represented by members of the network are listed on the [SPIN-D Network+ Calendar](#) on our website.

News from across the Dementia Network Plus Initiative

7th National Liverpool Dementia and Ageing Research Conference

Tuesday, 3 March 2026

This year's Conference theme focuses on "Innovations in dementia care". The Conference is open to academics, students, health and social care professionals, Third Sector representatives, funders, commissioners, and people living with dementia and unpaid carers.

If you would like to book a stall to share details and focus of your network or innovations, please use the link for more information and to book onto the conference.

First in-person Conference hosted by the Working With Dementia Network Plus

**Wednesday, 25 March 2026
University of the West of Scotland (UWS)**

The Conference will be an exciting opportunity to bring together our community of researchers, lived experience individuals and carers, employment, health care and policy stakeholders to explore the latest insights on dementia and employment.

We hope to see you there to exchange perspectives and discuss how to create dementia inclusive workplaces equipped to support people living with dementia and those in unpaid caring roles.

Register your intention to attend and receive more details on the Conference soon!

[You're invited! WWD Network Conference 2026](#)

2nd EquaDem Network Plus Annual Conference

**Thursday, 7 May 2026
Newcastle**

EquaDem's second annual conference will showcase key findings from the network's collaborative work to date and bring together experts in dementia policy and practice with those with lived experience of dementia to find the best ways of reducing current inequalities. We will be joined by Fiona Carragher, Chief Policy and Research Officer at the Alzheimer's Society, and Professor Martin Knapp, Professor of Health and Social Care Policy at LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science).

If you would like to attend, please register here: [EquaDem Network Plus Conference, Newcastle Tickets, Thu 7 May 2026 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Please note, whilst the conference is free to attend, tickets are limited. If you register but are no longer able to attend, please cancel your ticket(s) to allow others on the waiting list to attend.

[Resource] Let's Talk Dementia.

Supporting communication in research partnerships involving people with dementia

Let's Talk Dementia are a group of people with dementia, their supporters, and researchers. The aim of the group is to support communication in research partnerships involving people with dementia.

They have created written and video guidance on how to communicate in a way that is accessible to people with dementia, as partners in research.

[Find out more here.](#)

Research Study Recruitment

Clinical Research Opportunity into Social prescribing for GP Practices in England

CLINIC
For GP Practices
in England

**CLINICAL RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITY**

SPLENDID
Social prescribing for people to live
enjoyably with dementia in daily life

Does your practice use
social prescribing?

Help shape the future of
social prescribing for
people living with
dementia

feasibility trial for the SPLENDID pathway and intervention – a new approach to offering social prescribing to people living with dementia in general practice.

Get involved: SPLENDID Feasibility Study - [Expression of Interest Form – Fill in form](#)

DEM-SHIELD (Secondary Dementia Prevention: Developing Integrated Brain Health Clinics) National Research Study



Developing Integrated
Brain Health Clinics

Help shape the future of brain health services

We are inviting people with mild cognitive impairment, subjective cognitive decline, or those who have visited a memory assessment service because of memory concerns but have not been diagnosed with dementia to take part in our national research study exploring your experiences of cognitive changes and understandings of brain health.

We want to know about:

- Your experiences of cognitive changes.
- The care or support you've received from specialists and consultants regarding your condition or symptoms.
- Your understanding of brain health.
- Your views on how and where brain health advice should be provided to support you to reduce your risk of dementia.

What will I be asked to do?

- If you choose to take part, you would be complete an 60-minute online interview (one-to-one).

What will my contribution lead to?

- Your experiences and insights will help us to understand how to improve services for people like you, and guide further future research.

Other key things to know:

- Taking part is completely your choice. You can stop at any time. Everything you say will be kept private. If needed, we can help you to take part online.

Study Team




Danielle **Felicity**

To express an interest in taking part or to ask any questions: Please contact Dr Felicity Slocombe (f.slocombe@bradford.ac.uk) or Dr Danielle Jones (d.k.jones1@bradford.ac.uk).

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Health and Care Research

Approved by NHS Research
Ethics Committee, London - City
& East (REC Ref: 25/PR/1092)



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Bradford District Care
NHS Foundation Trust

The DEM-SHIELD project (Secondary Dementia Prevention: Developing Integrated Brain Health Clinics) is interested in finding out how people with mild cognitive impairment, subjective cognitive decline, or those who have visited a memory assessment service because of memory concerns but have not been diagnosed with dementia have experienced cognitive changes and their understandings of brain health.

The study involves a one-hour online interview about your experiences of support services and your views on brain health. Your input will help shape future services.

securely in line with ethical approvals (REC Reference: 25/PR/1092).

If you would be willing to take part, or would like to know more, please contact:

Dr Felicity Slocombe
f.slocombe@bradford.ac.uk

SPIN-D Network+ is now one of eight Dementia Network Plus initiatives.

Four networks are 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).

EMPOWER Network+

EQUADEM Network+

Working with Dementia Network+

Four networks are jointly funded by the Alzheimer's Society, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC, part of UK Research and Innovation), and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

BRIDGES for Dementia (University of Sheffield)
CONSOLIDATE (Heriot Watt University)
TEDI (Northumbria University)
ZeDTech (Imperial College)



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