



SPIN-D
NETWORK+

Sustainable Prevention,
Innovation and Involvement
for Dementia

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

Our newsletter this month shares some exciting events coming up in the SPIN-D calendar in September as well as news from our CLEG members.

SPIN-D Network News



The SPIN-Dementia Network Plus community has now grown to more than 1,000 followers on LinkedIn. Thank you to everyone who follows, shares and engages with our work. It is encouraging to see the network continuing to bring together researchers, practitioners, people with lived experience and others interested in improving support for people affected by dementia.

Flexible Funding: Funding Announcement: SPIN-D Flexible Funding (Round 3) Deadline: 31st October 2026

Call for Early Career Researchers: "Inclusion in Practice" Projects
SPIN-D is excited to open our third call for Inclusion in Practice projects under the Flexible Funding initiative, designed specifically to support Early Career Researchers (ECRs). This initiative funds projects that deepen our understanding of dementia or build upon existing research to drive real-world impact.

Focus Areas for Round 3

While we continue to support research into dementia risk factors and disease progression, this round places a special focus on practical application.

We are particularly inviting projects that aim to translate research into practice around understanding brain health and reducing dementia risk.

Who can apply?

Early Career Researchers (at eligible organisations), in collaboration with practitioners and people with lived experience, looking to translate dementia and brain health insights into practical, real-world tools and care models.

Full application guidelines, eligibility criteria, and key deadlines are outlined on the [**SPIN-D funding web page**](#).

SPIN-D Events

SPIN-D Engaged Partners Forum: Building Connections Across the Dementia Landscape

Tuesday, 15th September 2026

9 – 10:30am

Online

Following a successful first meeting in February, we are preparing for the next online gathering of the SPIN-D Engaged Partners Forum on 15th September 2026.

The Engaged Partners Forum is a collaborative network designed to bring together diverse organisations operating across dementia care and research.

Whether you are part of a community organisation, industry or tech company, or a policy unit, this forum offers a dedicated space to connect, share insights, and foster meaningful partnerships. The forum aims to build opportunities for cross-sector networking, creating strategic links and to provide an opportunity to keep up to date with emerging initiatives, best practices and innovative approaches in brain health and dementia care.

Who should attend: All welcome, mainly focussed around organisations such as dementia charities, community groups, health tech, industry, and policy

bodies.

Register your interest to attend the September meeting by emailing
spindnetworkplus@live.ucl.ac.uk

Save the date: SPIN-D Rural and Coastal Special Interest Group meeting

Tuesday, 15th September 2026

1pm – 2pm

Online

The SPIN-D Network Plus Rural and Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG) 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.

Register your interest to attend the September meeting by **[visiting our sign-up page.](#)**

SPIN-D x INTERDEM Academy Meeting

Thursday, 17th September 2026

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM BST (10:30 AM – 12:00 PM CEST)

Online

What we will cover:

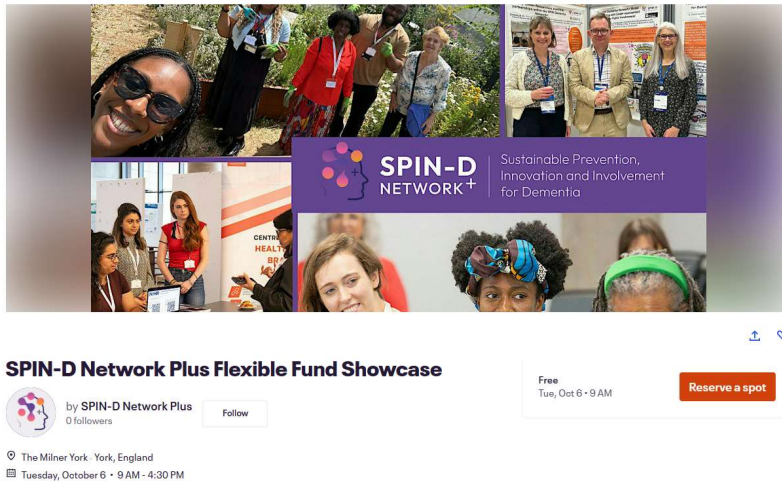
- Progress updates since our last meetings & breakout groups
- Ongoing research projects and upcoming funding opportunities
- Career development support for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) through both SPIN-D and the INTERDEM Academy

Register to attend via email to **spindnetworkplus@live.ucl.ac.uk**.

Registration open: SPIN-D 2026 Flexible Fund Showcase

Tuesday, 6th October 2026

Milner Hotel, York



This event will bring together researchers, practitioners, people with lived experience of dementia and community partners to showcase progress and outline future directions in dementia research.

What to Expect

SPIN-D Flexible Funding Showcases: Highlights from projects funded through SPIN-D so far, featuring vital work on:

- Understanding dementia risk
- Improving safer medicine practices for people living with dementia
- Developing targeted support systems for individuals and carers.
- Next Steps for GRACE & APPLETREE: Updates and insights on future directions for these core initiatives with presentations from experts within the Dementia and Ageing Research (DARE) unit at the Centre of Psychiatry and Mental Health (QMUL), alongside further guest speakers to be announced soon.

Who should attend: Researchers, people with lived experience of dementia, healthcare professionals, advocates, and partners across the dementia care landscape. **[Visit the Eventbrite page to register \(free of charge\).](#)**

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

[Follow SPIN-D Network Plus on LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date with events and activities.

Other Events

International Symposium on Solutions to Dementia Inequalities – a joint Equadem & INTERDEM Taskforce on inequalities event

Friday, 11th September
10am – 3:30pm
Manchester

Hosted jointly by EQUADEM Network Plus and the INTERDEM Taskforce on Inequalities in Dementia, we invite everyone with an interest in dementia to join us for our special Symposium on Solutions to Dementia Inequalities, featuring keynote speakers from Lithuania, Norway, and Portugal!

We will hear about the state of dementia diagnosis and care and associated inequalities across the UK, Lithuania, Norway, and Portugal, and jointly discuss possible solutions. We want to share learnings about solutions across different countries.

If you are an academic, student, health or social care professional, person with dementia, unpaid carer, commissioner or charity provider, do join us! Refreshments will be provided. **[Registration is open here.](#)**

UCL200 Dementia Research Showcase

Friday, 18th September
UCL, London Bloomsbury



As part of the UCL200 bicentennial celebrations, this showcase will highlight the breadth and impact of dementia research at UCL – past, present and future – through interactive booths from research groups around the

university. Visit the [Eventbrite page](#) to find out more and to reserve your ticket (free of charge).



The showcase will finish with a screening of the BBC documentary The Jennings vs Alzheimer's, which explores the discoveries made by researchers at UCL and UCLH that have given hope for Alzheimer's disease over the past four decades, and the very special family that helped make it happen. **To sign up for the screening, please click [here](#) for the Eventbrite.**

This will be followed by a Q&A session with Stuart Jennings, Professor Nick Fox (Director of the UCL's Dementia Research Centre) and Professor Cath Mummery (Head of Clinical Trials at UCL's Dementia Research Centre).

What is research and how to get involved?

**Thursday, 8th October
Manchester**

EQUADEM Network Plus are hosting a free public workshop for people with dementia, carers, and health and social care professionals about research, public involvement and engagement, and funding opportunities for health and social care professionals. This will take place on Thursday, 8th October, at the People's History museum in Manchester, with lunch and time for networking. **[Registration is open here.](#)**

UCL Centre for Longitudinal Studies Conference 2026: a celebration of cohort studies

**22nd – 23rd September 2026
London**

In March 2026, SPIN-D hosted the Data for Brain Health and Dementia Showcase webinar. The event introduced key datasets that can be used to study brain health, dementia risk and early changes across the life course. [You can view the webinar on our YouTube channel.](#) Those who attended or are interested in this subject may find the following event of interest.

The CLS Conference 2026 will bring together researchers from across disciplines, sectors and career stages to showcase outstanding life course research using cohort data. It is an opportunity to hear about the latest findings from the cohorts, share learning with colleagues, and network with fellow data users. The conference is also a chance to meet the staff running the studies, and give your input on the work of CLS and future direction of the cohorts.

Our two-day programme features four parallel sessions across key CLS research themes, including ageing, child development, cognition, families, labour market and skills, mental and physical health, social mobility, and statistical and survey methods. The programme features presenters from all career stages with a special poster session and a complimentary drinks reception on day one. **[Booking is open here.](#)**

CLEG Highlights

Debra Gingell on Discussing Diversity



Debra shares an update on one of the activities she has been involved in over the summer. Rachael Litherland from Innovations in Dementia facilitated a discussion about diversity at a CLEG meeting. This led to a working group of members and Rachael exploring how we could better understand the range of experiences, backgrounds and perspectives within the group. **[Read the blog here.](#)**

Martin shares exciting news about a newly funded project in Scotland

“We have had our first **Project Meeting of The Guddle** (Scottish for gathering). It is a £100,000 Project funded by the Zedtech Dementia Network Plus, for 18 months. We, academics from Stirling, St Andrews and myself are working on an Online Platform for those with Dementia from marginalised groups in Scotland. We aim to integrate a dementia inclusive AI Large Language Model which will produce accurate advice. The Project was praised for its public involvement because it is being led by myself and a PHD student. I will keep SPIN-D members updated on future developments”.

Martin's update on the Farmers Project

Every morning we all wake up and use farm produce in our breakfast. However, there has only been one Project in the whole of the UK prior to this looking specifically at farmers and dementia. They also are likely to have several of the risk factors for dementia; bangs on the head (although Farming Charities are publicising helmets), chemical usage (nowadays they use gloves although in my brother's day they didn't bother) and social isolation; sometimes the only folk they see outside the farm are other farmers when they go to their local Marts to buy and sell merchandise. That is why we are targeting these Marts specifically.

The **Farmer's Project has produced its first Booklet around brain health**; if we went to farmers and started talking dementia, they would ignore us. I will be presenting this to the SPIN-D Rural and Coastal Group in September; contact Emily Paremain for a Link. (all welcome to attend and hear more) and at Alzheimer's Europe in Dublin. The caveat being I always speak off the cuff so the presentations won't be identical!”.



Martin Robertson is a valuable and very active member of the Core Lived Experience Group who is consistently advocating for positive change. Well done Martin on securing the funding and being inviting to speak at Alzeimers Europe!

Other News and Resources

A European Survey on the Knowledge and Experience of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement in Dementia Research in academics and PhD students

Title of the research project: A European survey of knowledge and experiences of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement in dementia. Name of researchers: Dr Clarissa Giebel (PI), Prof Mark Gabbay, Emma Williams, Fiona Rushton, Sue Williams, Joanne Hitchen, Adam Smith.

What is the study about?

This online survey seeks to explore the knowledge, experiences, and barriers to patient and public involvement and engagement of people with dementia, unpaid carers, care professionals, and charity representatives in dementia research across Europe, by researchers and PhD students. **Further information and link to survey.**

Research about the Good Life with Dementia Course

Please note the researchers are seeking participants living in or around Sheffield, Manchester or Bristol. For more information **visit their website.**



UNIVERSITY
of York



Innovations
in Dementia

Research about the Good Life with Dementia course

Good Life is a 6 week course for people with dementia, delivered collaboratively with people with dementia.

The course is about living well with dementia.



Would you like to take part in some research about the Good Life course?

What would taking part involve?



A University of York researcher would ask you some questions about your well being (they would invite you to do this 3 times - you don't have to say yes).



Some participants will be invited to attend a 6 week Good Life course this autumn. Not everyone will be asked to do this, but everyone's answers are valuable.

To find out more

Visit the [website](#) to read more about the research (scan this QR code with the camera on your phone)



To take part

There is a link on the website to express interest. Or you can contact Mandy at the University of York for a chat about taking part on:



07385 341592



mandy.willcox@york.ac.uk

Doc 10 Recruitment Flyer (Good Life feasibility study) V2 9th July 2026 IRAS 356285

SPIN-D Crossword

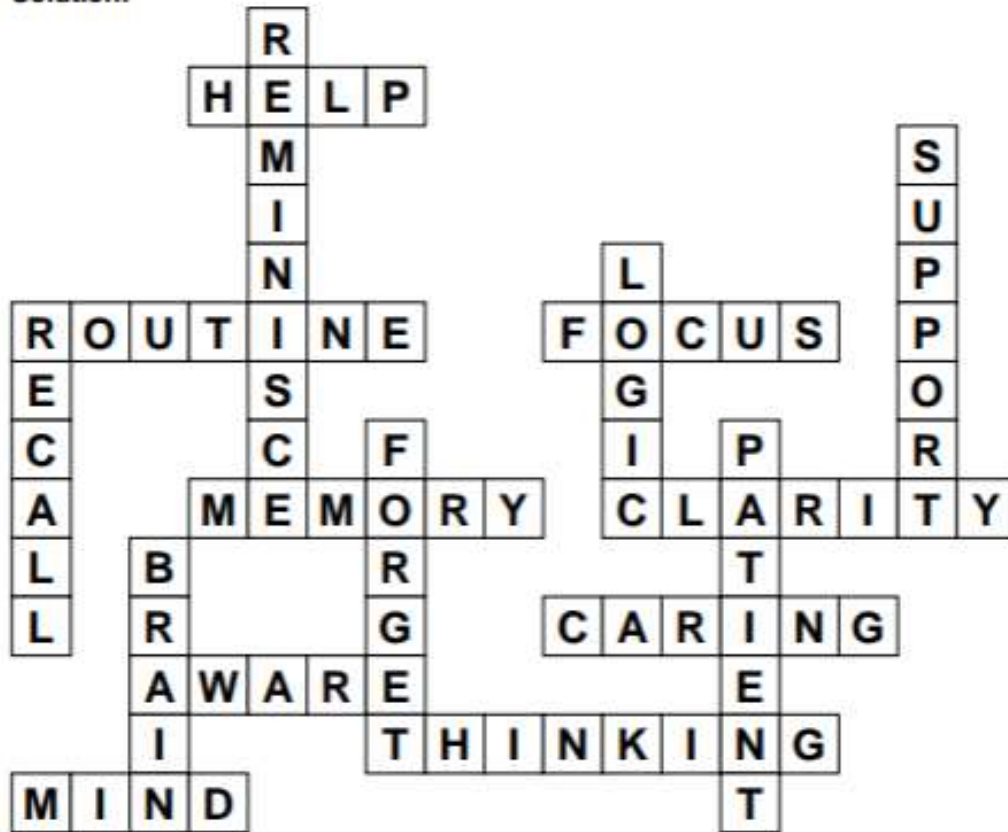
Thank you to Pete Middleton (SPIN-D CLEG member) for this submission.

Answers to last month's crossword, below

SPIN-D

Easy Crossword

Solution:



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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our website. To unsubscribe, please email
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