

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



## BDR exhibit at the world's largest meeting of dementia researchers, Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC)

Researchers who have used BDR data and tissue in their investigations often feedback about what an amazing resource it is. The fact that we have serial assessment data, some of which goes back more than 14 years, together with genetic data and accurate diagnoses based in neuropathology findings, means that BDR can offer researchers a phenomenal dataset. If we add to this blood samples, human brain tissue and in some cases, stem cells, then we can rightly call ourselves a world-class resource. To maximise the impact of BDR however, our challenge is to raise awareness, and for this reason we chose to present to a global audience. Between 28<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, BDR exhibited at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Philadelphia, USA. AAIC is the largest meeting of dementia researchers from around the world with over 12,000 delegates present together with exhibitors from a variety of organisations ranging from small charities, to large pharma and biotech companies. In total, including those attending online, 15,820 individuals were present.



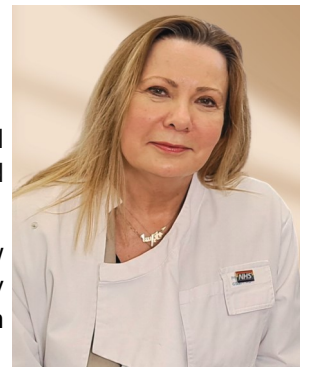
BDR were represented by Debbie Lett (left) and Nicky Barnett (right.). Debbie is BDR Deputy Director and Manager at the Newcastle Brain Tissue Resource. Nicky is Manager at the BDR Coordinating Centre.

We were busy! On our first day alone, we spoke with around 200 delegates and over the whole conference, gave out over 350 flyers! Most of the researchers were from academic institutions, predominantly in the U.S., although we did have some interest from smaller companies from both the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. The opinions expressed were all very positive, with many researchers being amazed that we have so many, well-characterised brain tissue donations. We hope that this will result in an increase in requests for both BDR tissue and data. Time will tell, but we were immensely proud to share our fantastic programme with this global audience.

## Professor Vanessa Raymont, Principal Investigator at the BDR Centre in Oxford, makes the news

Vanessa Raymont (pictured right), from the University of Oxford, is leading a study which will recruit volunteers from more than 50 UK trial sites. The **READ-OUT Study** is looking at blood biomarkers and was featured on the BBC news, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-68726703>

To-date, a lot of work has gone into developing blood tests for dementia. These tests are now more accurate than ever, but they have only been tested in small numbers of people and many groups have been missed out. The study team want to know if these blood tests are helpful in the 'real world', including all people who come to memory clinics.



In the first three years, the READ-OUT study will collect blood from 3,000 people with different forms of dementia. They will target recruitment to ensure substantial participation from people who have in the past been missing from research: certain ethnic minorities, the very elderly, those living in deprivation or with other medical conditions. They will then run a clinical trial with 880 people to learn whether receiving the dementia blood test results is a positive step - how it helps patients and carers, how we should communicate the results, and if it changes their health journey. They will work with people and families to design the study, at the end of which we will know whether these tests are useful for all people using NHS memory clinics and how they might best be rolled out. If you would like to register your interest in helping with this study, you can sign up on the DPUK webpage (although most of the recruitment will be at memory clinics): <https://www.dementiasplatform.uk/>

# What's happening in your local BDR?

## Public meeting in Newcastle

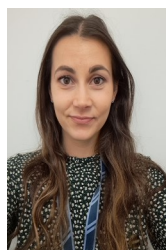
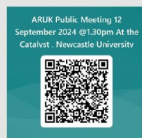


### DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DEMENTIA RESEARCH?

FREE public talks on a diverse range of topics including:

The Arts & Dementia  
New Treatments for Dementia  
Hearing & Dementia  
Driving & Dementia

To book a place  
please use the QR  
code or telephone  
0191 208 1342



## In Cardiff, we say goodbye to Rachel Marshall



How time flies when you're having fun!

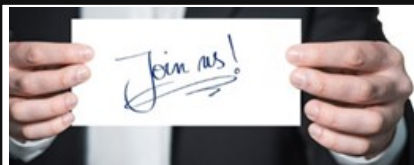
For those of you who don't know me, my name is Rachel and I've worked in the BDR Centre in Cardiff for the last 10 years (almost as long as some of you have been participants!).

I joined Cardiff University in February 2014 in my first "grown up" job, initially as a research assistant, booking in appointments and conducting research assessments. Since then, I've worked my way up to managing the Cardiff centre. I have adored my time working on the project and I've learnt a lot from it. It certainly holds a special place in my heart (and brain!). I would like to say a big thank you to all the BDR colleagues and participants I've interacted with through the years. Especially for all the lovely chats, cups of tea and biscuits you have provided me!



## and we welcome new staff member Danielle Le Roux

My name is Dani and I'm new to the BDR team and will be working from Cardiff University's branch as a research assistant. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone who is taking part in the study, both staff and participants alike.



Our next, online BDR Engagement Event is due to take place on  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**  
and will be hosted by the BDR team based in Oxford.

Details of the event and how to join will be emailed to BDR participants and study partners nearer the event date.

If you have not attended any of the previous events but would like to do so, you can register your interest by going to the BDR website: [Online Engagement Events - Brains for Dementia Research \(alzheimersresearchuk.org\)](https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/research/online-public-events/exploring-risk-factors-for-dementia/)



On 16<sup>th</sup> July, one of the dementia charities supporting BDR, Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK), hosted an online event: **'Are blood tests the future of dementia diagnosis?'**

We are delighted to be able to share a link to the event recording so that you can watch it in your own time.

Link to recording - [Are blood tests the future of dementia diagnosis?](https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/research/online-public-events/exploring-risk-factors-for-dementia/)

Their next event, **'Exploring risk factors for dementia'**, will take place on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 1pm BST. Dr Fiona McLean and Prof Jason Warren will share their research on risk factors, and how understanding them could lead to new treatments or ways to protect the brain from dementia.

To find out more, go to <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/research/online-public-events/exploring-risk-factors-for-dementia/>

If you have further questions about dementia research or would like to get involved in research studies, please contact the ARUK Dementia Research Infoline, by calling 0300 111 5 111 or email: [infoline@alzheimersresearchuk.org](mailto:infoline@alzheimersresearchuk.org)

If you would prefer not to receive future newsletters, please let us know by contacting your local study team