elderly vascular geriatrics Alzheimer's environment fronto-temporal research memory old age elderly vascular geriatrics Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust Community and Mental Health Services 5 October 2023

## **Studies**

Non-clinically trained facilitators' experiences of remote psychosocial interventions for older adults with memory loss and their family carers

Non-clinically trained facilitators can have positive experiences delivering remote psychosocial interventions with older adults. Differences in life experience could compound initial fears of being 'in at the deep end' and 'exposed' as lacking expertise. Fears were allayed by experiencing positive therapeutic relationships and outcomes, and by growing confidence. For this to happen, appropriate training and supervision is needed, alongside accounting for the challenges of remote delivery.

<u>Stress, depression, and risk of dementia – a cohort study in the total population between 18 and 65 years old in Region Stockholm</u>

Documented chronic stress increased the risk of mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer disease. The same was seen with depression. The novel finding is the potential additive effect of chronic stress to depression, on risk of MCI and AD.

The association of herpes zoster and influenza vaccinations with the risk of developing dementia: a population-based cohort study within the UK Clinical Practice Research Datalink Both zoster vaccine for prevention of shingles / herpes zoster and influenza vaccine to prevent influenza were associated with diminished risk of dementia, with the zoster association appearing more pronounced.

Change in physical activity and systolic blood pressure trajectories throughout mid-life and the development of dementia in older age: the HUNT study

Findings illustrate the clinical importance of physical activity and systolic blood pressure for dementia prevention and that favorable levels of both are associated with reduced occurrence of dementia.

### Clinical trials of new drugs for Alzheimer disease: a 2020–2023 update

In this comprehensive report, we review all trials listed in clinicaltrials.gov, elucidating their underlying mechanisms and study designs. Ongoing clinical trials are investigating numerous promising new drugs for AD. The main trends in these trials involve pathophysiology-based, disease-modifying therapies and the recruitment of participants in earlier stages of the disease. These trends underscore the significance of conducting fundamental research on pathophysiology, prevention, and intervention prior to the occurrence of brain damage caused by AD.

# Conference

Annual Conference – The Dementia Inequalities Game

Alzheimer's Research UK will host its fourth annual clinical conference on Friday 10th November 2023 at the Royal College of Physicians, London and online. The primary purpose of the conference is to bring UK dementia healthcare professionals together to discuss the latest research and innovations, and future policy and research implications on clinical practice.











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### News

Two-thirds of GPs want to prescribe tech for patients diagnosed with dementia

A poll of GPs in the UK has shown primary care doctors want to prescribe assistive technologies to patients diagnosed with dementia. It sought to better understand appetite amongst primary care doctors for the use of technology in helping people and families affected by dementia. Other findings from the GP poll include:

\*\*88% believe that people living with dementia who can live in their own homes will live more fulfilling lives.

\*\*77% believe that people living with dementia will live longer if they can remain in their own homes.

\*\*87% believe the majority of their patients with early-stage dementia would benefit from technology that was designed for their condition.

## Webinars

Launch of Knowledge is Power England - Online event 2pm Thursday 26th October 2023 This autumn, a new version of 'Knowledge is Power' is published. This one is for England, while the previous two are for Scotland and Wales. Knowledge is Power England: making life easier after a diagnosis of dementia', is full of information, resources, and support for anyone with dementia and people around them. The booklet will be especially helpful for people newly diagnosed. As well as a printed edition, there will be an online version, where it will be easier to follow through website links.

#### Increasing awareness and opportunities for genetic testing

Webinar on Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 12.30pm. Dr Hussey, Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist and Lead Consultant for the Memory Clinic in Wokingham, Berkshire Healthcare Trust, will present details of their service improvement project to increase awareness and opportunity for genetic testing in young onset dementia. The diagnostic process for younger people with dementia should include access to genetic testing if required (RCPsych CR 217). However, this often is not routinely available.



