



Leading the fight
against dementia

**Alzheimer's
Society**

Priorities for the Future

Dr James Pickett
Head of Research

Improving care through care research



- Care interventions are as effective as current drugs.



- Care is not a stop gap until we get 'a cure'.

Improving care through care research



Landscape today

- ‘Research is still very exploratory’
- ‘Research is disparate’

NIHR Bournemouth review of nursing research

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS MEDICINE

Psychosocial Factors That Shape Patient and Carer Experiences of Dementia Diagnosis and Treatment: A Systematic Review of Qualitative Studies

Frances Bunn^{1*}, Claire Goodman¹, Katie Sworn², Greta Rait³, Carol Brayne⁴, Louise Robinson⁵, Elaine McNeilly¹, Steve Iliffe³

¹ Centre for Research in Primary and Community Care, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom, ² Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, York, United Kingdom, ³ Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health, UCL Medical School, London, United Kingdom, ⁴ Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, ⁵ Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Conclusions: There is an extensive body of qualitative literature on the experiences of community-dwelling individuals with dementia on receiving and adapting to a diagnosis of dementia. We present a thematic analysis that could be useful to professionals working with people with dementia. We suggest that research emphasis should shift towards the development and evaluation of interventions, particularly those providing support after diagnosis.

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Conclusions: There is an extensive body of qualitative literature on the experiences of community-dwelling individuals with dementia on receiving and adapting to a diagnosis of dementia. We present a thematic analysis that could be useful to professionals working with people with dementia. We suggest that research emphasis should shift towards the development and evaluation of interventions, particularly those providing support after diagnosis.

James Lind Alliance priorities

1. What are the **most effective components of care** that keep a person with dementia as independent as they can be?
2. How can the best ways to care for people with dementia, including results from research findings, be **effectively disseminated and implemented into care practice**?
3. What is the **impact of an early diagnosis of dementia** and how can primary care support a more effective route to diagnosis?
4. What non-pharmacological and/or pharmacological (drug) **interventions are most effective for managing challenging behaviour** in people with dementia?
5. What is the best way to **care for people with dementia in a hospital setting** when they have acute health care needs?

James Lind Alliance priorities

6. What are the most effective ways to **encourage people with dementia to eat, drink and maintain nutritional intake?**
7. What are the most effective ways of **supporting carers** of people with dementia living at home?
8. What is the best way to care for people with advanced dementia (with or without other illnesses) at **the end of life?**
9. When is the optimal time to **move a person with dementia into a care home** setting and how can the standard of care be improved?
10. What are the most **effective design features** for producing dementia friendly environments at both the housing and neighbourhood levels?

The hope for prevention

- Age – the biggest risk factor for dementia
- Genetics
- Environment

modifiable factors

Risk factors change during life

Mid-life / later life



Future

- Working towards critical mass in dementia research
- Increased collaboration, cohesion
- Larger, more definitive studies
- More focus at designing and testing interventions
- Narrow gap between research and implementation
- Advances in PPI, co-production methods
- Priorities of professional carers
- Comorbidities, as well as symptoms
- Role of charities as delivery and research partners

Thank you

**Alzheimer's
Society**

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We fund dementia research across all areas including care, cause, cure and prevention.

Grant type	Opens	Deadline
Project grants (up to £400k)	11 Dec 2015	March 2016
Junior fellowship (up to £225k)	11 Dec 2015	March 2016
Senior fellowship (up to £400k)	11 Dec 2015	March 2016
Clinical and AHP training fellowship (£225k)	11 Dec 2015	March 2016
PhD studentships (up to £85k)	11 Dec 2015	March 2016
Implementation grants (TBC)	June 2016	Mar 2017
Undergrad summer bursaries (up to £1.9k)	27 Nov 2015	Jan 2016

Where to find more information

alzheimers.org.uk/research



