



**World Dementia
Council** Leading the Global Action
Against Dementia

2025 World Dementia Council Summit

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Disruption: Accelerating Innovation & Delivering Change

Francis Crick Institute London

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Overview

The dementia field needs to accelerate innovation. Health systems, governments, and communities must adapt quickly to these new advancements. At the 2025 WDC Summit, we're challenging participants to think boldly and present solutions that will fast-track breakthroughs for individuals, families, and communities.

Format

There will be a dynamic mix of plenary and parallel sessions, all designed to foster open dialogue. Rather than formal presentations or speeches, sessions will be conversational, encouraging spontaneous interaction between panellists and the audience.

Participants

There will be a diverse audience of around 200, including policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, care providers, and advocates. This is an invitation only event. For more information info@worlddementiacouncil.com

Programme outline

Opening plenary: The Ageing Society

The opening session of the conference will address the challenges and opportunities posed by our ageing. Age is the biggest risk factor for dementia, underscoring the urgency for effective intervention. This session will explore the intersection of public policy and scientific research addressing how health systems can meet the challenge of the ageing society.

Parallel sessions

Science strand

Disrupting development: accelerating innovation in prevention, diagnosis and treatments

Theme one: Disrupting the science

There are significant advances being made in the development of new diagnostics, treatments and understanding risk reduction. The first sessions will explore how we can disrupt the science underpinning these advances to accelerate progress. There will be sessions on:

- *Session: Disease concept:* how do we define the different diseases – clinical symptoms and biomarkers?
- *Session: Prevention:* understanding risk – what do we not know?

Theme two: Developing treatments faster

The journey from science insight to product is fraught. The sessions will explore how disruption can accelerate the development of treatments. There will be sessions on:

- *Session: New technologies:* using AI and other technologies from structural relations, the drug identification and design of treatments
- *Session: Innovating trials:* what models are there and how can we modernize the path to the clinic? Are clinical trial ready cohorts useful (or not)?

Theme three: Delivering disruption - treating patients.

The third theme explored will be on *delivering innovation: treating patients*. The journey from science insight to product is fraught. The sessions will explore how disruption can accelerate the development of treatments. There will be sessions on:

- *Session: Biomarkers in clinical practice:* when should we diagnosed?
- *Session: Who do we treat and when:* what patient should receive what treatment?

System strand

Disrupting the system: building the future health system

Theme one: Disrupting attitudes: diagnosis and prevention

A driver of disruption will be the changing expectation of patients around perceptions of disease, diagnosis and accessing treatments. There will be sessions on:

- *Session: Brain health – will it convince?:* how can we work to encourage population behavioural change to promote brain health and reduce dementia risk?
- *Session: Diagnosis and disease:* will technology and treatments be the biggest driver to change in attitudes to diagnosis or do health systems need to reform to earlier diagnose patients in the disease trajectory?

Theme two: The disruption coming: treatments but also support?

The roll out of treatments will inevitably disrupt health systems but it will not remove the need for post-diagnostic support an area ripe for disruption. What can patients expect?

- *Session: Can health systems adapt to deliver treatments?:* the session will address the adaption needed from health systems to begin to treat people with dementia now and in the future
- *Session: Post diagnostic support – a realistic goal?:* is post diagnostic support realistic and affordable

Theme three: Can you disrupt care?

Care remains integral to the experience of people living with dementia – but is it an area where disruption, however needed, is likely.

- *Session: Who pays for long term care:* are care models sustainable?
- *Session: Innovative technology:* is technology going to rescue care?



Closing plenary: the future health consumer

This session will focus on how individuals will interact with health systems in the coming years. There has been reluctance to use the term patients but inevitability in the years ahead people will be diagnosed and treated with pharmacological (and non-pharmacological) interventions to slow (and ultimately stop) the trajectory of disease. As any other disease area. But while this shift, from someone living with dementia to a patient that has dementia is inevitable the expectation of the future patient will also be different. They will demand more direct access to information, greater involvement in their care decisions, and a higher level of engagement with their treatment options. The session will explore what the future patient will expect from science, health and care systems, and funders.