



Alzheimer's
Society

Thank you

for being one of the team



Did you know you are one of our Priority Supporters?

This means you are one of our most generous donors, integral to the progress we are making. Your donations have helped us get to a turning point in dementia research – and for that, we can't thank you enough. Without supporters like you, we wouldn't be able to invest in the most ambitious research happening today.

We can now not only imagine a future where dementia no longer devastates lives, we can almost touch it.

A special thank you from the frontline of research

Our Head of Research, Professor Richard Oakley, has recorded an exclusive research update and message of thanks especially for supporters like you. Watch the video now to find out why this is the most exciting time there's ever been in Alzheimer's disease research. Simply scan the QR code or visit alzheimers.org.uk/specialthanks



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Priority supporters like you are key to our ability to say yes to promising research proposals.

Professor Richard Oakley

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Thank you so much <Name>

I've been told there are just 4,709 people in the whole of the UK who support Alzheimer's Society in the way you do – so as Chief Executive, I'd like to say a huge thank you personally. By giving as generously as you do, you send a message to everyone living with dementia that they haven't been forgotten. These are turbulent times we're living through, but our supporters are the best reminder that there is still an awful lot of good in the world, and together we can all have an impact.

Like so many, I know how tough dealing with dementia can be. My mum has been living with dementia for more than 15 years. I've seen up close how the current social care system fails people affected by dementia, and why we urgently need new ways to diagnose and treat this condition. But despite these challenges, I am more hopeful and more determined than ever.

2023 saw major breakthroughs, from advances in the diagnosis of the diseases that cause dementia to new treatments to slow down symptoms in early Alzheimer's. Now, 2024 looks set to be even more momentous, with announcements about making these new drugs available for patients due this year. These developments are just the tip of the iceberg, and you are playing an essential role in the progress we're making.

I hope the research highlights we've included in this report give you cause for optimism too. Thank you again for standing shoulder to shoulder with us and everyone affected by dementia. I will not let this disease define my memories of my mum, and I will not rest while it continues to define the memories of anyone else.

Kate Lee

Kate Lee
Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Society



P.S. Enjoy planting your enclosed Forget me Not seeds (an extra little thank you from me). I hope they deliver a beautiful blue display for you this summer!

Be part of the conversation

We'd love to hear more from our **Priority Supporters** about what parts of our work you enjoy learning about most. Whether it's new research projects, real life stories or fundraising activities, please share your thoughts using our online suggestion box. You can scan the QR code or go to alzheimers.org.uk/prioritysupporter. Over to you!



What is a Priority Supporter?



You're an investor in the most promising research projects in the field of dementia.



You're a forward-thinking donor – you know that the more we can invest in science today, the more breakthroughs we'll make tomorrow.



You are a partner in our work, keeping us on track and helping accelerate progress.



You're an active advocate for everyone affected by dementia.



You believe everyone living with dementia should have the support to keep being who they are and doing the things they love.

New nurses, thanks to you

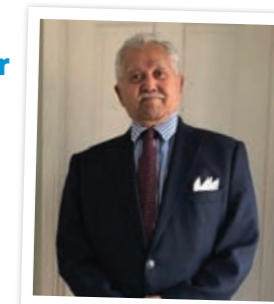
We want you to be among the first to hear some exciting news – your support has helped make it possible for us to set up a national team of dementia research nurses in a three-year pilot.

Research nurses are expert healthcare professionals who identify and work with patients to recruit them into clinical trials that could lead to major new breakthroughs in dementia research. They also offer encouragement and information so anyone taking part feels confident and positive about the process. This is the first project of its kind for dementia and with your support, we believe it will revolutionise clinical trials, getting us closer than ever to new treatments.



Helping future generations through research

Afzal Shaikh is a retired GP living with dementia. He is also a huge advocate for research and is taking part in Imperial College London's Minder Project.



This research programme is partly made possible by supporters like you, and it's all about helping people with dementia live at home longer.

Afzal's wife Zohra explains, 'our house is fitted with lots of monitors – in the living room, hall, kitchen, the bed, the bathroom. The idea is to look for changes that could indicate a problem. Research is so important. We know our work won't help us, but it is good to try to help those who come afterwards.'

Thanks to you and to people like Afzal and Zohra, future healthcare professionals will have a better understanding of what it's really like to live with dementia.

Incredible research you're helping make happen

Revolutionising diagnosis

The Blood Biomarker Challenge is a groundbreaking initiative seeking to identify and develop blood tests for dementia on the NHS.

Within five years, anyone referred for a diagnosis could be able to have one of these simple blood tests and get their results within weeks. This would mean people could access support earlier, take part in clinical trials and benefit from new treatments as soon as they become available. The Blood Biomarker Challenge has the potential to be genuinely transformative.



Trying to develop a game changing drug

When an unhealthy cell is found in the brain, a process involving a combination of proteins begins to destroy it so it can't cause damage. However, sometimes this process can lead to excess inflammation in the brain – which is a feature of Alzheimer's disease.

To solve this, we're supporting an important new study led by Dr Wioleta Zelek that could result in a cutting edge new drug. This would mark a brand new avenue of treatment and play a vital role in slowing the development of Alzheimer's disease.



Could fruit flies help prevent Alzheimer's disease?

Professor Amrit Mudher and her team have been taking advantage of the transparent skin of fruit flies to understand how an abnormal protein that plays a key role in Alzheimer's disease spreads between cells.

Drawing on what they've learnt so far, they now plan to use different chemicals and modify specific genes to help fruit flies' cells function well again. If this next stage is successful, it could be possible to develop a drug that can do the same for people with Alzheimer's disease.



**Your future
impact is
limitless**

Thank you

**If you need help with dementia,
please get in touch**

You can get personalised information,
support and advice by calling our
Dementia Support Line on
0333 150 3456.

[alzheimers.org.uk](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 296645. Alzheimer's Society
operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



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