



Dementia Researcher

Building research capacity and supporting early career researchers, from all areas of discovery

January 2022

NIHR | National Institute for Health Research



Its Goals



Facilitate collaboration, provide a community of support, enable sharing while inspiring the next generation of dementia researchers and helping to retain the current generation.

What it Does

What is does



Searches for all dementia research events, jobs, further education courses and funding calls and collates and curated them into a single directory - providing a one-stop-shop



Provides a community where researchers from different fields and countries interact, overlap, collaborate & support each other in their work and careers. Via Social media, Whatsapp and Social Meetings



Collates and curates content from partners on research (clinical, basic science, care, etc), methods and career topics relevant to the dementia ECR community. Partners, Journals, Charities.



Provides an online repository of tools and resources to support ECR on all areas of interest, from grant writing to datasets, and provides informal mentoring and special campaigns e.g. careers week festival



Organises and publishes over 150 written and narrated blogs each year, a fortnightly podcast, blogs podcast and monthly webinars on careers, research, conference outputs + more

2021 Specials & Collaborations



Festival to promote dementia research as a career option for undergraduates and young-people.

Developed directory of education courses, inspirational blogs, films, webinars and social media campaign.

- 753 webinar participants
- Over 5000 social media engagements
- 4,500 webpage visitors
- Engagement with all UK Universities

Delivered with Race Against Dementia, Alzheimer's Research UK, Alzheimer's Society, UK DRI, DPUK



Partnership with The National Centre for Research Methods (funded by ESRC) to deliver podcasts and resources to support improved awareness and understanding of different qualitative research methods. Podcast Series + Quick Guides accessed over 3,750 people.



Forefront Webinar Series with Alzheimer's Society - monthly webinars to showcase AS funded research, with scientific and careers presentations livestreamed + made available on YouTube - 610 viewers from 12 countries.

ISTAART | PIA TO ELEVATE EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (PEERS) PROFESSIONAL INTEREST AREA



International Research / Survey to understand challenges faced by early career researchers and what support is required - 5 papers / 1 publication + ADI Conference (ongoing work)



Partnership with ISTAART & Global Brain Health Institute share work of the Professional Interest Areas + funded Researchers.

This 'Relay Podcast Mini Series'. Diverse range of ECRs and Senior + the Research Perspective Series bringing together research participants, with researchers to discuss both sides of research.

- Over 6,500 plays in 69 countries
- Participants from 7 countries

Ongoing relationship with Relay Released each July and perspectives every other month.

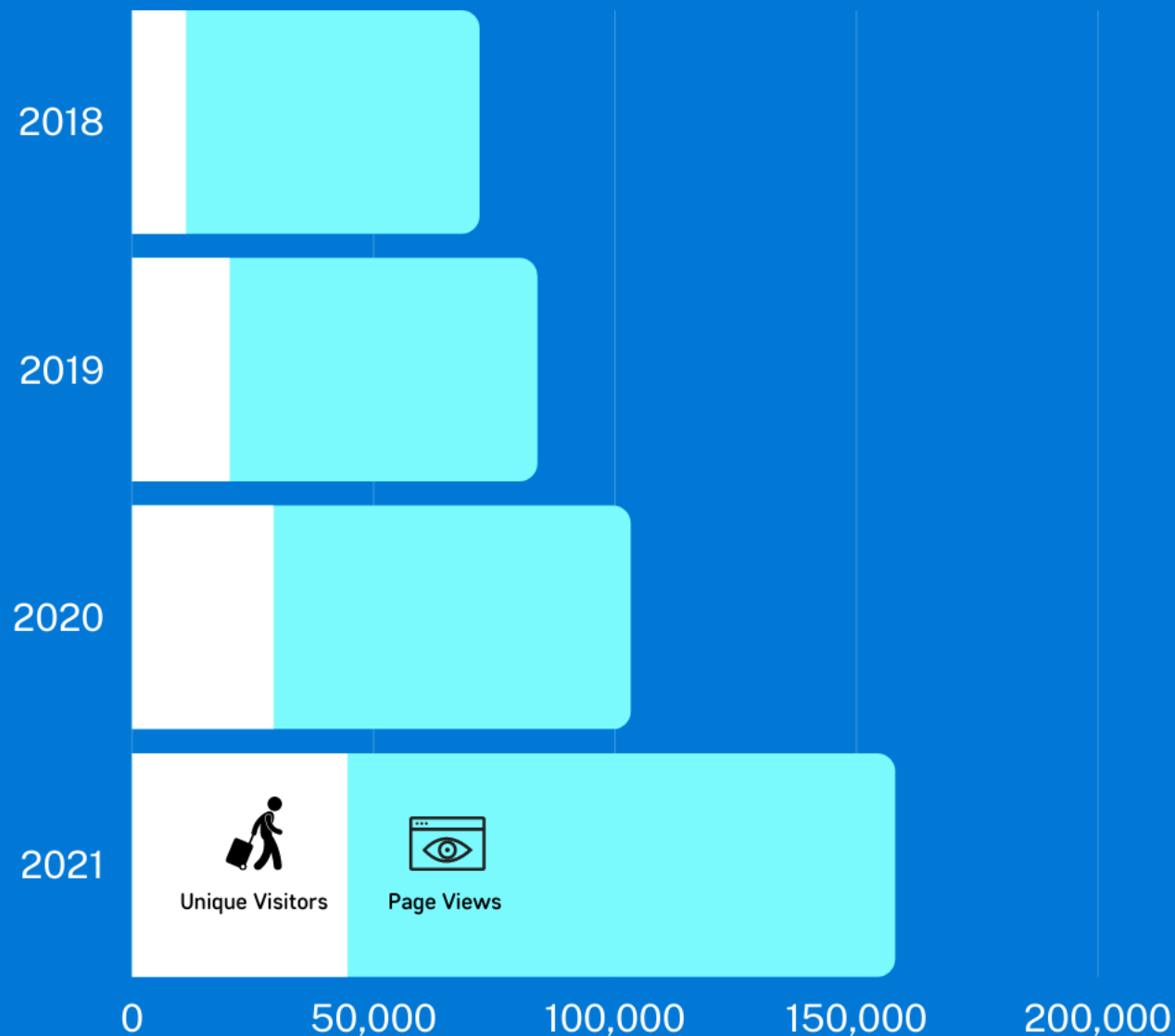


Other Collaborations:

- Alzheimer's Research UK
- Race Against Dementia
- NIHR Evidence
- Cochrane
- UKRI / Zinc Catalyst
- AMRC
- NIHR CRNCC
- UK Space Agency
- AAIC / Neuroscience Next
- National Careers Festival
- University of Sydney

Its Success

Year on year growth in users 53% in 2021

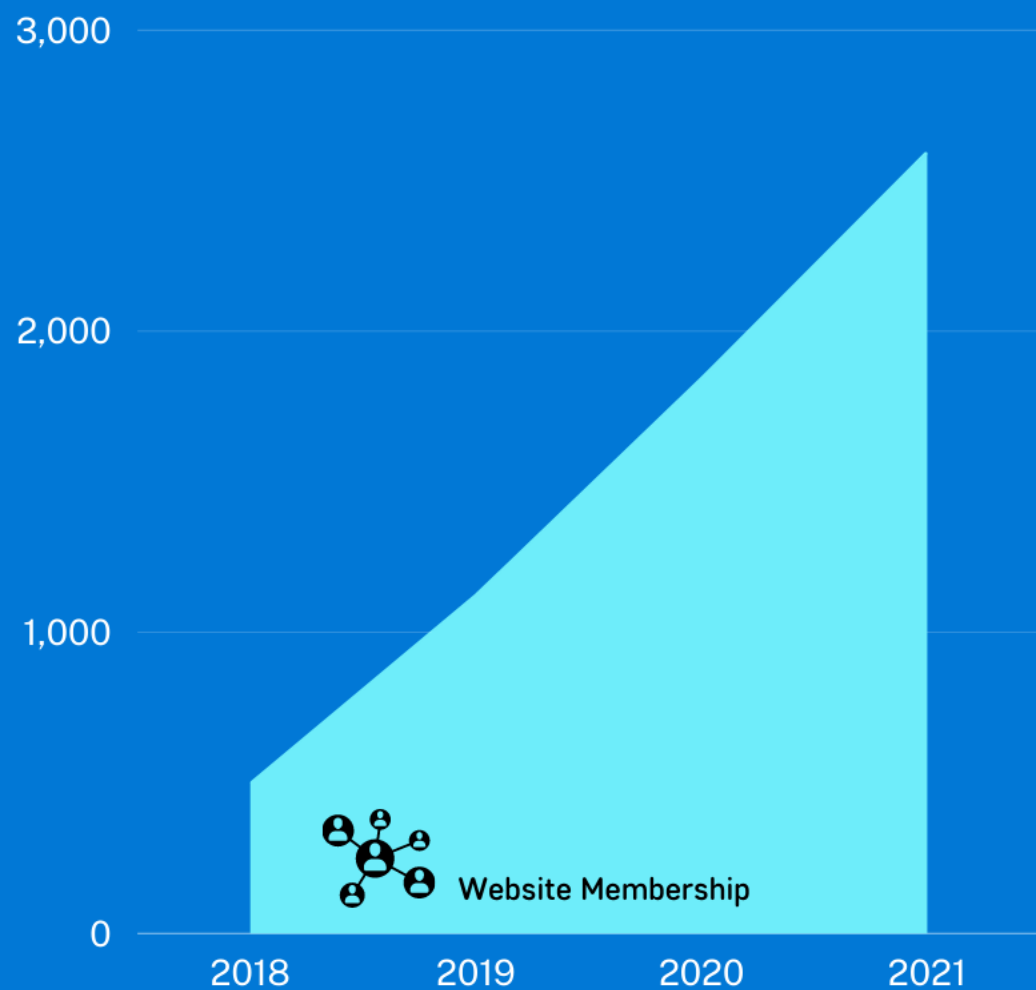


Since launch in March 2018 the number of site users has increased year on year with the largest growth coming in the last 12 months, as the news travels and service goes 'multi-platform'.

USER FEEDBACK

"Dementia Researcher has provided a real community that I feel supports people like me, and service that really cares about its members - a place of civility, friendship and support"

"At a recent interview I was asked to give an example of how I had contributed to the wider research community, and what science communication activities I had been involved in. I was able to point to the articles I had written for Dementia Researcher - and the panel were really impressed. It has also meant that when I google myself (which I don't do very often, honest) my name comes up, with my bio, and blogs - which outnumber my publications".



Membership Growth

40%

The website has over 2,590 registered members, **from more than 35 countries**. They have access to all content, and receive a weekly news bulletin with articles, events, jobs, funding.

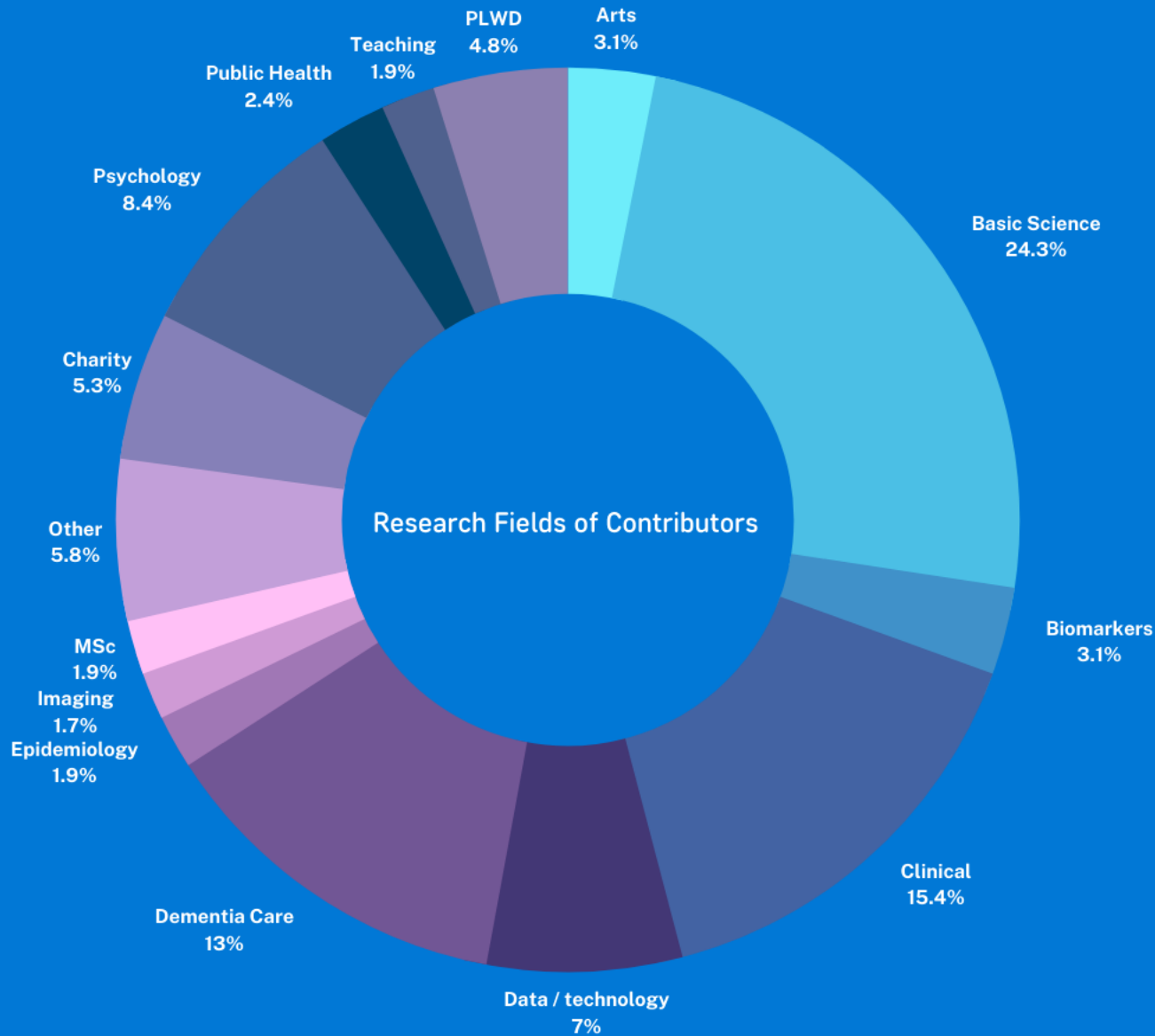
USER FEEDBACK

“Dementia Researcher is one of the few websites I come back to time and time again. Every week when the Friday bulletin arrives, there is always something that catches my eye. A podcast topic, an interesting blog, a piece of news, job or funding call. I applied for a grant I spotted advertised on the website in early 2020 and I am pleased to say I was awarded the funding a few months ago - I doubt I would have know about it if it wasn't for the newsletter”

Diversity

350

Contributors



Contributors report that this helps raise their own profile, contributes to raising awareness of their work & helps others. This is a unique service that brings together ECRs from all areas of discovery + growing by around 10 each month.

USER FEEDBACK

"I'm sure I won't even remember all the ways it has helped. From being able to bounce research ideas off people, finding peer support, ideas for different technology/tools that can make life easier, advice when I was having an issue with my institution, career development advice and opportunities, info on funding calls & learning about dementia from different viewpoints than my own discipline & networking with people I would never have met otherwise... it's all been amazing! I now have a charity in a different country interested in collaborating with rolling out my intervention, after hearing me discuss on Dementia Research - this has added so much to my PhD and it's an opportunity I never would have had without Dementia Researcher."



Followers

7,439



Engagements

2.0 million



Views

17,800



Watch time

2,600 hours

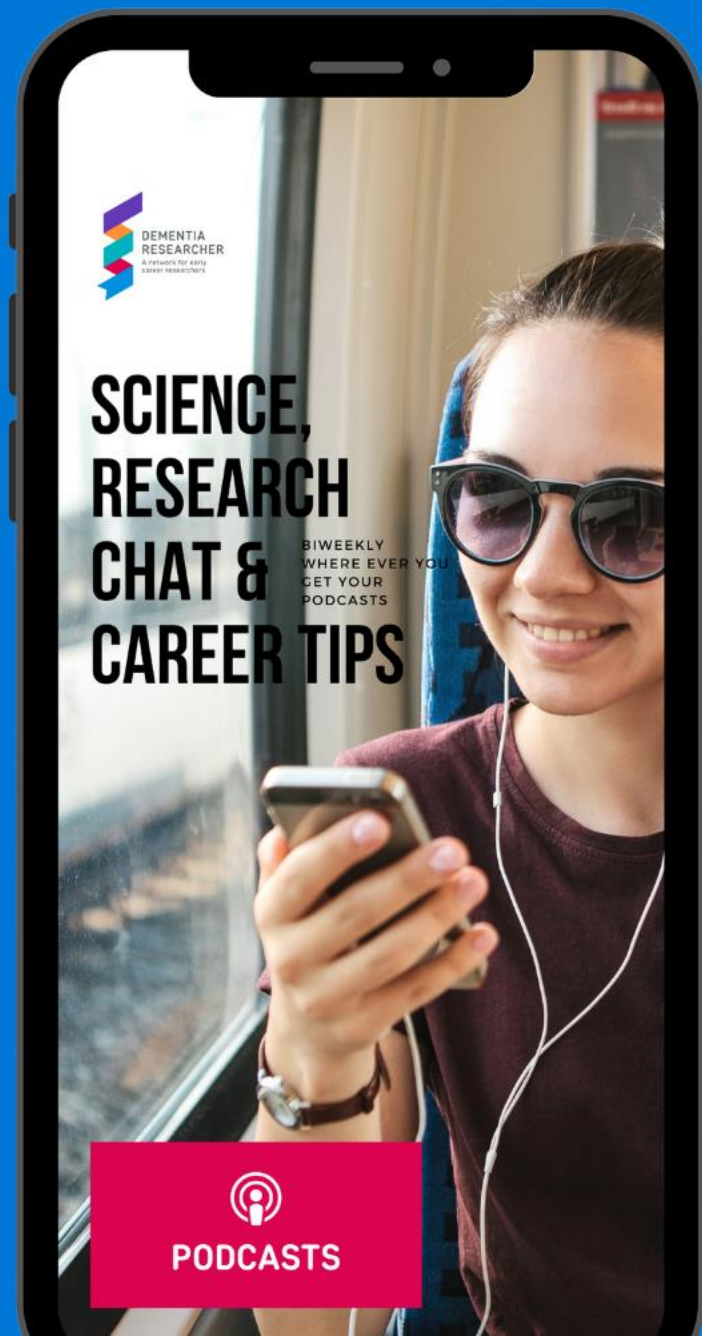


Multi- platform growth

Dementia Researcher users and engagements now stretch across multiple platforms as the service extends to reach a wider audience and produces more multi-media content e.g. narrated blogs, webinars etc

USER FEEDBACK

"I'm in the third year of my PhD, I have found the podcasts and narrated blogs really great, they always resonate with me and are really helpful. It is good to know that the issues that bother me are also bother thing them... pressure of writing, prep for the viva, worrying about my next job"



Podcast Listens **+7% in 2021**

Our subscribers have responded positively to behind-the-scenes content we share on our page.

USER FEEDBACK

"After appearing on the AAIC Neuro Next Podcast in October 2020 was contacted by a listener, and as a result we have now collaborated on a manuscript that was submitted in April 2021 and an abstract that was accepted for AAIC 2021"

"Just heard the latest Dementia Research podcast on my afternoon run... so inspiring and great to hear I'm not alone"

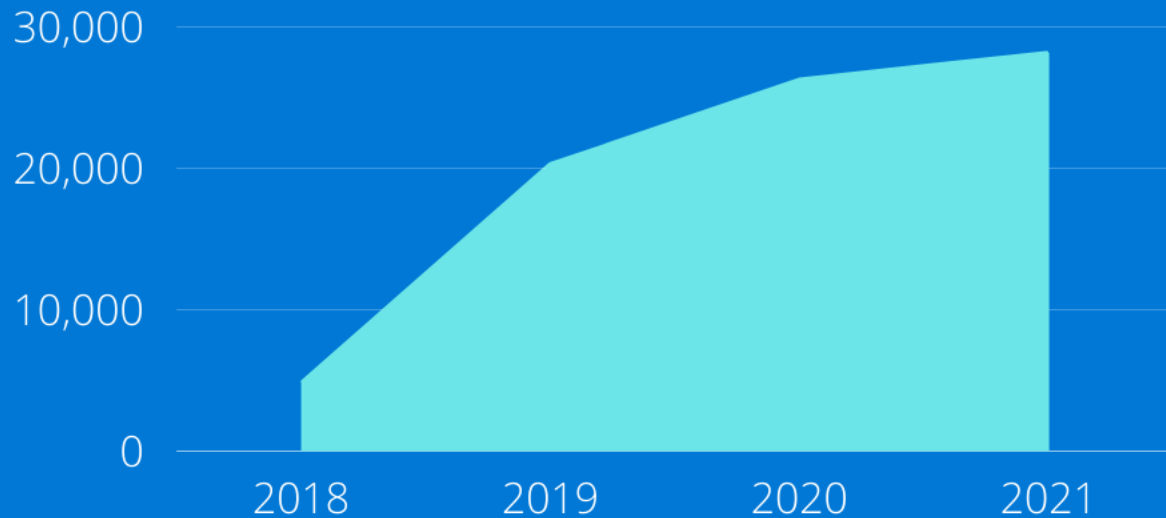
"I really love the community. After one of the last webinars I went on Twitter and connected with some other people who had also been in the webinar. Even had a virtual coffee with one early PhD student last Friday and it was really helpful and interesting to chat with her."

Subscribers
4,250+

Monthly Plays
2,230 avg

**On all podcast
platforms +
smart home
devices**

Podcast Episodes 164

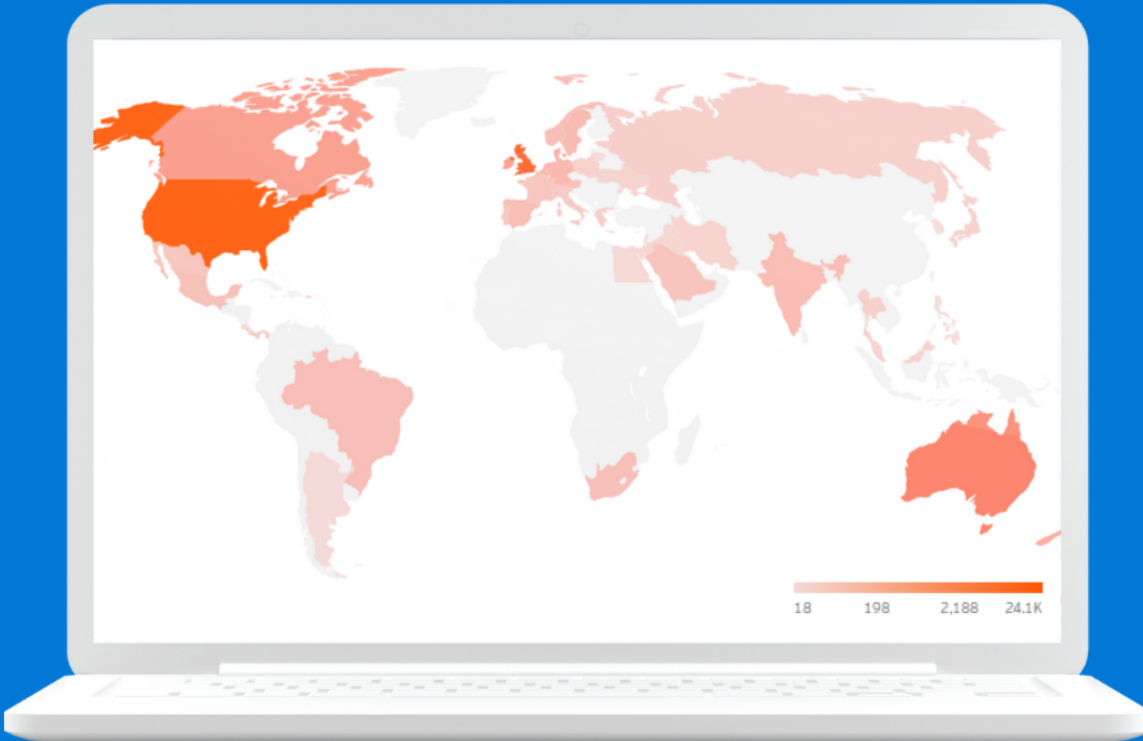


Podcast topics cover everything from Basic Science to COVID-19 Care Research and Careers + Conference Reviews and special mini series, collaborations with Alzheimer's Research UK, Alzheimer's Association, NIHR and Alzheimer's Society. The show features guest hosts + varied panels.

USA Listeners
41%

UK Listeners
36%

Rest of the World
23%



Worldwide 50+ countries

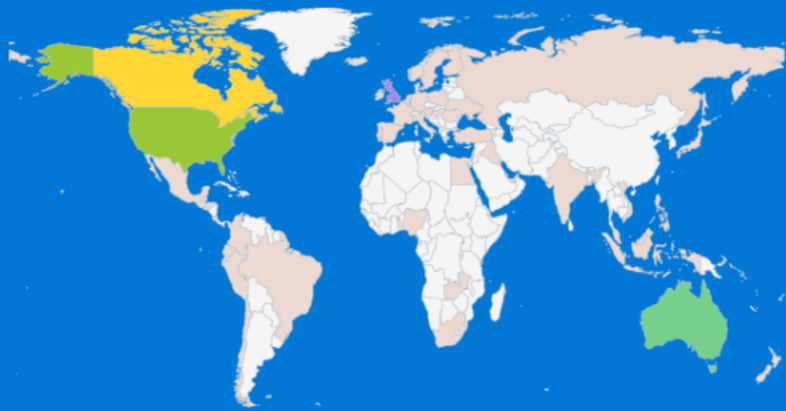
The Dementia Researcher podcast is bringing ECRs from across the world together. With guests from more than 16 countries, it is listened to in over 50 countries worldwide, and its in the top 4% of science podcasts worldwide. From Macao and Iran to the UK and USA

Number
2-3 per week

Listens
6,800

On all podcast
platforms +
smart home
devices

Narrated Blogs 170



USA 34%
UK 29%
Canada 9%
Australia 9%

56 countries

We have made a big effort to ensure all our content is accessible to people who are unable to view a screen or listen to audio, or who speak a language other than English. All blogs include narrations, all podcasts include a video closed caption version and a transcript - which is also available in most languages.

USER FEEDBACK

"I attended my first dementia researcher webinar during the careers festival in 2021, and hearing one of the panelists talk about her passion for research is one of the things that inspired me to think about studying again. I am now supporting a clinical trial in my trust, and am hoping to apply for an NIHR Clinical Doctoral place in 2022"

The Future

Delivering for & with partners 5 Year plan



Inspire



Promoting dementia research careers across all areas of discovery, with a particular emphasis on people from under-represented backgrounds. Through visual imagery, stories, blogs, webinars, podcasts, films and improved connections with educational institutions.

International

Increase contributions from the wider international community. To ensure that ECRs relate to the messages, the people they see and the contributions they make. This will extend to blogs, webinars, events, job listings and funding calls + encourage cross Atlantic relations.

Community

Increase opportunities for face to face and online interactions between researchers. Establish supportive groups to foster collaborations, improve connections between research fields and to provide peer-to-peer careers guidance.

Experts

Ask an expert, working with experts and leaders to share their insights and to work towards improving research culture and sharing of technical expertise, from exploring research methods, to practical how-to guides on everything from lab techniques to interviewing.

+ with your input

Thank you!