

# Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network

Developing a world-class health service infrastructure to support the delivery of clinical studies and promoting collaboration to support the development of new research

## What is DeNDRoN?

The Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network (DeNDRoN) is a UK-wide initiative that aims to improve the speed, quality, and integration of research in dementias, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, Huntington's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases, resulting in improvements in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for patients.

DeNDRoN facilitates the development and conduct of clinical trials and other well-designed studies by:

- coordinating focused, effective investment in NHS research infrastructure to ensure that quality research, funded by both commercial and non-commercial organisations, receives the support to succeed
- building on the strengths already present in the UK as well as increasing general capacity in the field of dementia and neurodegeneration
- promoting collaboration between patients, carers, researchers, clinicians, academics, NHS Trusts, funders and industry, to support the integrated development of new research

DeNDRoN is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) as part of the UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN).

## What research is eligible for DeNDRoN support?

DeNDRoN supports randomised controlled trials and other well-designed studies, including those for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. DeNDRoN resources can only be used to support the development and delivery of studies eligible for inclusion in the UKCRN Portfolio.

These include all studies funded by the NIHR and its partners, commercial trials adopted into the Portfolio through the DeNDRoN Coordinating Centre, and other non-commercial studies which are peer reviewed and fully funded through open, national competition.

For details of the full eligibility criteria, please contact DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre or visit [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

## How can DeNDRoN support the delivery of clinical research?

DeNDRoN supports the delivery of research in the UKCRN Portfolio through a set of managed networks and a UK Coordinating Centre.

In England, DeNDRoN has established seven Local Research Networks covering 50 per cent of the population. In addition, supplementary resources have been invested in several additional centres to provide further support for studies of motor neurone disease and Huntington's disease.

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In Wales, the Clinical Research Collaboration Cymru has established a Research Practitioner Network (100 per cent coverage). In Northern Ireland, the R&D Office has established a Clinical Research Network (100 per cent coverage).

The networks incorporate NHS acute, mental health and primary care Trusts and academic partners. Building on existing research and clinical infrastructure where possible, each network employs a manager and research staff (nurses, data managers and other support staff) to work alongside their clinical colleagues to support the set up and delivery of studies.

The UK Coordinating Centre supports the coordination and performance management of study set up and delivery.

Through this network, DeNDRoN can support the delivery of single centre studies to large-scale multi-centre trials in the UKCRN Portfolio by:

- Supporting the set up of studies, including local research governance approvals
- Screening and recruiting patients to participate in specific research projects  
Providing access to trained research staff to deliver studies
- Collecting, collating and submitting quality research data
- Supporting central coordination and performance management of specific projects
- Promoting the active involvement of patients and the public in research
- Developing the capacity and skills of the research workforce through appropriate training and education

As the Comprehensive Local Research Networks develop across England, the DeNDRoN Coordinating Centre will support researchers within and outwith DeNDRoN Local Research Networks to access appropriate resources.

## How can DeNDRoN support the development of clinical research?

DeNDRoN has established UK-wide groups to support coordinated and integrated approaches to the development of new research proposals. These bring together key stakeholders (including researchers, patients and funders) from across the UK to promote collaboration at a national level.

UK Clinical Studies Groups and Special Interest Groups have been established for:

- dementias
- Parkinson's disease
- motor neurone disease
- Huntington's disease
- primary care
- neuropathology & brain banking
- neuropalliative rehabilitation
- methodology

DeNDRoN supports regional collaboration between groups of researchers, patients and NHS Trusts to set local priorities, and to develop research appropriate to patient need and local expertise. This is done through Local Research Networks in England, NEURODEM Cymru in Wales and the Recognised Research Group for Neuroscience in Northern Ireland.

The UK Coordinating Centre supports interaction between local and national initiatives and provides access to expert advice on study design, funding and delivery through Clinical Trials Units in London and Newcastle.

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**Further information, including details of your Local Research Networks, is available at [www.dendron.org.uk](http://www.dendron.org.uk)**

**Or by contacting the DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre:**

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