



sponsors:



2025 World Dementia Council Summit

Disruption: Accelerating Innovation & Delivering Change

Francis Crick Institute London
March 25, 2025

Overview

The dementia field must deliver innovations faster. At the same time, health systems, governments, and communities must be better prepared to rapidly adapt and deploy these innovations. The 2025 WDC Summit will challenge participants to think boldly and offer solutions to accelerate innovation and deliver breakthroughs to individuals, families and communities.

Format

The Summit will be a combination of plenary sessions and parallel sessions. There will be opening and closing plenary sessions and parallel sessions between the plenary. All the sessions are “in conversation” format, whether plenary or parallel. We don’t ask panellists to make presentations/give speeches. We encourage spontaneous conversation and a lot of interaction between panellists and the audience.

Summit Programme summary

Time	Outline
9.00-9.20	Welcome and scene setting
9.20-10.20	<p>Plenary 1</p> <p><i>What disruption do we need</i></p> <p><i>This session will reflect on where we are, this is the beginning of a new era. There are approved treatments for AD but the first treatments are only a start. Across treatment, prevention, and care, technology, data and discovery is bringing disruption. This opening session will set the scene for the day’s discussion ahead. Where are we and what change is needed?</i></p>
10.20-10.45	Coffee break
10.45-11.30	<p>Parallel Sessions 1</p> <p><i>Disrupting the science</i></p> <p><i>This session will consider the research landscape in dementia. Are we making the progress we should be, not just in AD but other forms of dementia?</i></p>



	<p><i>Disrupting population behaviour - Brain health</i> This session will consider prevention and lifestyle (or pharmaceutical) interventions. Dementia is the disease older populations are most fearful of but is that sufficient in of itself to prompt individuals to change behaviour? Is re-framing of prevention around brain health an effective way to engage a target population?</p>
11.30-12.15	<p>Parallel Sessions 2</p> <p><i>Stimulating Innovation:</i> This session will consider how to support innovation – whether that be from funding, to infrastructure and regulation. What can be done to enable an environment where disrupters succeed in bringing innovation to market.</p> <p><i>Disrupting diagnosis:</i> This session will address whether technology and treatments be the biggest driver to change in patient and public attitudes to diagnosis or do health systems need to reform to successfully diagnose patients earlier in the disease trajectory?</p>
12.15-13.15	<p>Lunch</p>
13.15-14.00	<p>Parallel Sessions 3</p> <p><i>Delivering trials:</i> This session will address the development of trials in an era of treatments. What do trials look like when some in a patient population are on treatment. But how can trials be accelerated from funders to regulators to academic centres, how can we enrol larger numbers of patients into trials?</p> <p><i>Technology and care:</i> This session will consider the impact technology and data can have on improving care and support provided to people living with dementia. Care costs, formal and informal, form a significant part of the dementia spending envelope, Care systems are under considerable strain and individuals struggle to access good quality care unless they have significant private resources. Is it realistic that technology (and data) can disrupt the way care is delivered? If not, then what?</p>
14.00-14.45	<p>Parallel Sessions 4</p> <p><i>Diagnosing and treating</i> This session will consider developments in diagnostic and prognostic tools. What will be available in a routine clinical setting, what can individuals realistically expect to access outside a clinical setting, and when do we want to diagnose someone with disease?</p> <p><i>How can health systems adapt at pace to deliver treatments and care?</i> This session will consider the challenges in high- and low-income countries to getting treatments and innovation to patients. Will patients benefit from the disruption that research and industry is delivering?</p>



14.45-15.15	Coffee break
15.15-16.00	<p>Plenary 2</p> <p><i>An era of treatments: the offer to patients over the patient journey</i></p> <p><i>This session will consider disruption across the patient journey, reflecting on the day's discussion, what can patients realistically expect from diagnosis through to end of life in the decade ahead?</i></p>
16.00-16.45	<p>Plenary 3</p> <p><i>Disrupting thinking</i></p> <p><i>This session will explore if technology and treatments will be the biggest driver to change in attitudes to diagnosis or if health systems need to reform to earlier diagnose patients in the disease trajectory.</i></p>
16.40	Closing session
17.00	Drinks reception