



2026 WDC Summit: *The New Patient: Before symptoms, after diagnosis*
Francis Crick Institute, London, United Kingdom
Tuesday 20 October 2026
In person

About this Meeting

The 2026 World Dementia Council (WDC) London Summit will be the Council's principal global convening of the year, bringing together senior leaders from governments, research, philanthropy, health systems, civil society and industry. The Summit will combine plenary sessions that convene all participants with parallel discussions designed for deeper exploration of specific issues. The plenaries will set shared themes and priorities, while the smaller sessions will enable detailed policy and implementation discussion.

In addition, throughout the day there will be a number of independently convened workshops and roundtables, including over breakfast and during parallel session periods. These will be hosted by partner organisations using the Summit as a platform to advance specific initiatives or collaborations. Participation in these sessions will be by invitation, coordinated directly by the hosts.

Event Summary

The Summit will explore how advances in treatment and diagnostics are reshaping the very meaning of dementia. For the first time, it is becoming possible to detect and intervene earlier in the disease course, creating a shift from diagnosing Alzheimer's disease only once symptoms are pronounced to identifying it far earlier, even before cognitive change becomes visible. This transition brings with it a new patient population and new clinical, ethical, and social questions: how to communicate risk and diagnosis, how to organise sustained follow-up and support, and how to ensure that early detection leads to better outcomes rather than anxiety or inequity. The discussions will consider what it means for dementia to move into the mainstream of preventive and personalised medicine.

The Summit will examine how health systems, public health strategies, and advocacy must adapt to this change. Scaling treatments, diagnostics, and support will require new care pathways, new models of workforce, new forms of data and digital infrastructure, and new approaches to brain health across the life course. The day will consider how to ensure equitable access, how to manage increasing public willingness to seek assessment, and how technology and AI will shape long-term monitoring and care. Central to this is the question of whether health systems can move at the pace that science is now advancing — and what leadership and collaboration will be needed to ensure the benefits of this new era reach people and communities globally.

