

# Charity needs your help in its fight against Alzheimer's disease

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH IN EUROPE BRINGS TOGETHER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS TO FIND NEW APPROACHES TO TACKLING THE DISEASE

IT is estimated that more than 55,000 people in Wales over the age of 65 are currently living with dementia.

So finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, is the holy grail of medical research.

Recent drug breakthroughs certainly offer a reason for hope - as well as a renewed incentive for further funding.

That's where the Campaign for Alzheimer's Research in Europe (CARE) comes in. Founded in 1999 and based in Wales, the registered charity supports research into the understanding and treatment of Alzheimer's.

Co-founder Dr. Sarah-Jane Richards explained: "By some estimates, more research has been done on Covid in the past three years than on dementia in the past century.

"When I reflect upon the last 20 years, I see the same sorts of research being undertaken and steps forward being quite incremental.

"That's why we founded CARE. It's unique in bringing together researchers across Europe, including Wales, to develop innovative new approaches to tackling the problems in the brain underpinning this dreadful disease.

"I don't think the fight against Alzheimer's is going to be won any time soon so, despite recent advances in our understanding, the fight continues and that's where we need your help."

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE

CARE supports the best scientists and academic science, as well as academic scientific workshops, to encourage collaboration between the leading research

centres and teams in Europe.

Recent high-profile meetings made possible by its grants include the second annual Brain Lecture and the fourth Translational Neuroscience Day in France.

Dr. Richards said: "These international events offer a great chance to discuss all the latest developments, so knowledge can be exchanged and built upon by other labs with different skills and equipment.

"For instance, genetics, pathology and diagnostic testing are completely different fields but developments in one area can actually lead to big leaps forward in another.

"It's really about that interaction between developments - where they're coming from and how they can assist other areas of research - and translating discovery in the lab to the development of effective therapies.

"Most importantly, we're encouraging an exchange of knowledge."

## FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES

At present there is no cure for Alzheimer's - the disease is progressive and cannot be halted.

It begins with memory loss along with other cognitive symptoms and its impact is far-reaching.

Dr. Richards said: "Robbing a person of their memories, character and identity is cruel not only for the individual affected but also for their families and friends.

"More often than not the sufferer eventually requires long-term, 24-hour care which is often beyond what the family can provide.

"Specialist care-home places are expensive and the cost of providing care for those suffering



CARE encourages collaboration between the leading research centres in the UK and teams in Europe (Image: Getty Images)

from dementia accounts for a large percentage of the annual Social Care budget.

"In fact, the total cost of dementia to the UK economy in 2019 was £34.7bn, more than cancer and heart disease combined, and that figure is projected to treble by 2040.

"Meanwhile, annual funding for research from the Government has settled around the £80m mark, less than a third of cancer's allocation.

"Clearly there's a lot of pressure on the Government to tackle all sorts of different illnesses and diseases which is why the charitable sector is so important."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ultimately, a cure for Alzheimer's disease is crucial if people are to age healthily without dementia.

Luckily, the relationship between funding and technological progress is clear and simple, as we have seen with Covid and cancer.

Dr. Richards concluded:

"CARE is absolutely determined to find a cure for this dreadful disease.

"We've made a big difference over the last two decades but now is the time for us to be even more influential.

"With European funding coming to a close post-Brexit, it's never been more important to maintain vital collaborative dementia research between Wales and Europe.

"You can help us by making a donation to CARE or recognising the important scientific research into Alzheimer's disease when you make, or amend, your Will.

"A gift in your Will can

contribute new hope of a dementia-free old age for future generations to come."

## FIND OUT MORE?

Donations to the Campaign for Alzheimer's Research in Europe should be sent to the Charity's Registered Accountants, Evans Entwistle at Villa House, 7 Herbert Terrace, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 2AH.

**For further information about the many ways you can offer your support, contact Dr Sarah-Jane Richards on [alzheimerscare1@outlook.com](mailto:alzheimerscare1@outlook.com) or visit [www.alzheimers-care.info](http://www.alzheimers-care.info)**



The Campaign for Alzheimer's Research in Europe, based in Wales, is absolutely committed to finding a cure for the disease (Image: Getty Images)



**C.A.R.E.**

*The Campaign for Alzheimer's Research in Europe*