Dementia Academy®

Digital Dementia MasterClass 1

Module 1 – Diagnosing dementia, clinical syndromes and Alzheimer's disease

11th September 2026, 15:00–17:30 (UK time)

Chair: Prof Iracema Leroi, professor in geriatric psychiatry, Trinity College Dublin & Faculty, Global Brain Health Institute
Dr Ben Alderson, consultant psychiatrist in old age psychiatry & clinical lead for older peoples service, Leeds and York partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Murudappa Bhattad, consultant geriatrician, Northern Health and Social Care

Objectives

- Describe dementia as a **clinical syndrome** and its stages (SCI, MCI, mild/moderate/severe dementia).
- Outline the core clinical features of **typical Alzheimer's disease**.
- Recognise the main presentations of **atypical Alzheimer's disease**.
- Apply learning through **case-based small-group work**.

Module 2 – Dementia subtypes and clinical complexity

16th October 2026, 15:00–18:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr Gregor Russell, consultant old age psychiatrist and R&D director, Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Joe Kane, academic clinical lecturer, Queen's University Belfast
Prof Maura Malpetti, assistant research professor, Race Against Dementia Alzheimer's Research UK
Dr Katherine Stockton, associate professor & consultant neurologist, The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

Objectives

- Recognise the key clinical features of major non-Alzheimer's dementias.

- Differentiate between Dementia with Lewy Bodies, Parkinson's disease dementia, Frontotemporal Dementia and Vascular Dementia.
- Understand common diagnostic pitfalls and areas of overlap.
- Recognise atypical and mixed presentations.
- Apply diagnostic reasoning to complex clinical cases.
- Improve confidence when assessing patients with less common dementia syndromes.
- Understand how diagnostic uncertainty can be managed in clinical practice.

Module 3 – Biology of dementia: from pathology to biomarkers

27th November 2026, 15:00–17:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr Dan Blackburn, senior lecturer and honorary consultant neurologist, Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience
Prof Steve Wharton, emeritus professor of neuropathology & consultant in neuropathology, University of Sheffield & Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Tim Rittman, senior clinical research associate, University of Cambridge

Objectives:

- Understand the key pathological processes underlying major dementia syndromes.
- Describe the relationship between pathology and clinical presentation.
- Explain how biomarkers reflect underlying disease processes.
- Understand the current biomarker landscape, including fluid and imaging biomarkers.
- Recognise how biomarkers are used in contemporary clinical practice.
- Appreciate the role of biomarkers in future dementia diagnosis and treatment pathways.

Module 4 – Assessment and neuroimaging in practice

18th December 2026, 15:00–17:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr Seán O'Dowd, consultant neurologist, Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin

Prof John O'Brien, professor of old age psychiatry and NIHR national specialty lead for dementia, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge
Dr Norah Jordan, principal clinical neuropsychologist, St James' Hospital, Dublin

Objectives:

- Apply a structured approach to dementia assessment.
- Recognise typical and atypical presentations of dementia.
- Understand the role of collateral history and neurological examination.
- Select appropriate investigations in different clinical scenarios.
- Understand the contribution of neuroimaging, neuropsychology and biomarkers to diagnosis.
- Integrate clinical, imaging and cognitive findings into diagnostic decision-making.
- Recognise common diagnostic pitfalls and challenges.
- Apply learning to complex real-world cases.

Module 5 – Managing dementia across the disease course

15th January 2027, 15:00–17:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr Joe Kane
Prof Paresh Malhotra, head of the division of neurology & honorary consultant neurologist, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Dr Zumer Jawaid, consultant psychiatrist, St Mary's Hospital, Leeds
Rachel Thompson, consultant admiral nurse for Lewy body dementia, Dementia UK

Objectives:

- Understand current pharmacological treatment options for dementia.
- Describe the emerging role of disease-modifying therapies in Alzheimer's disease.
- Recognise the diagnostic, biomarker and imaging requirements associated with disease-modifying therapies.
- Understand the practical implications of implementing disease-modifying therapies within clinical services.
- Identify and manage behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD).

- Apply person-centred approaches to dementia care.
- Support people living with dementia and their families throughout the disease course.
- Consider how dementia services may need to evolve to support future models of care.

Module 6 – Delivering dementia care across healthcare systems: pathways, services and integration

5th February 2027, 15:00–17:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr George Crowther, consultant in old age liaison psychiatry, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust
Dr Yaohua Chen, associate professor, University of Lille
Prof David Wingfield

Objectives

- Describe how dementia care is delivered across different healthcare settings.
- Understand the complementary roles of primary care, cognitive and geriatric medicine, hospital services and community teams.
- Recognise common gaps and challenges within current dementia pathways.
- Identify practical approaches to improving integration and continuity of care.
- Consider how biomarkers and disease-modifying therapies may influence future service models.
- Apply learning to support pathway redesign within their own organisations.

Module 7 – Advanced dementia, ethics and end of life

5th March 2027, 15:00–18:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr Ed Richfield, consultant in elderly medicine, North Bristol NHS Trust
Prof Emma Vardy, consultant geriatrician, Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Emma Thorman, specialty doctor, North Bristol NHS Trust

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Objectives TBC

To ensure this module remains current and relevant, objectives will be confirmed soon following the latest parliamentary developments on assisted dying.

Module 8 – Future directions, brain health and prevention

16th April 2027, 15:00–17:00 (UK time)

Chair: Dr Dan Blackburn
Prof Iracema Leroi
Dr Tamlyn Watermeyer

Objectives

- Describe current evidence for dementia prevention and risk reduction.
- Understand different models of brain health clinics and life-course approaches.
- Appreciate the role of digital tools, AI and novel cognitive assessments in future dementia care.
- Recognise transcultural considerations and equity issues in prevention and brain health.