

New database to connect neurodegenerative disease community

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Credit: EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research

Researchers studying neurodegenerative disease can now look up cohort studies and make connections through a new online database.

The [JPND Global Cohort Portal](#) opens in new window, created by the EU Joint Programme in Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) for which the MRC is a founder member, is a searchable online database of neurodegenerative disease cohort studies.

Long-term studies which follow large groups of people over time – known as longitudinal cohort studies – are a rich, but currently under-

used, resource. Finding and contacting relevant cohorts can be a difficult and time-consuming task for researchers.

The portal aims to overcome this challenge by allowing users to search for cohorts around the world that could be relevant for their neurodegeneration research. A summary of the cohort study, the data collected and the contact details are available on the portal, giving researchers the opportunity to make new connections.

Currently including 110 cohorts, the tool will continue to grow as new cohorts are discovered and added. The aim of the [portal](#) is to encourage information exchange and new collaborations within the neurodegenerative disease community, to support scientific progress.

After exploring the database, Dag Aarsland opens in new window, Professor of Old Age Psychiatry at King's College London, said: "I was pleased to see that the JPND Global Cohort Portal offers a broad and overarching view of cohorts that have been funded in countries across Europe and beyond. In fact, after just a few minutes of exploring the JPND Portal, I identified a number of cohorts that I hadn't heard of before, which may be useful in my research." Read the full interview with Professor Aarsland on the Portal opens in new window.

Neurodegenerative disease-specific and general population cohorts, related to neurodegenerative disease research, are both included. To be considered relevant, they must be cohorts that were set up to follow a range of health or social factors as a population ages, or cohorts looking at other chronic diseases but using measures of risk relevant to neurodegenerative disease, for example metabolic or cardiovascular factors.

To be included, neurodegenerative [disease](#)-specific cohorts must have more than 200 participants, unless they are classed as rare

conditions opens in new window. General population cohorts must include over 1,000 participants.

To allow the database to grow and evolve, an online entry form is available for principal investigators to submit their cohort for inclusion after checks. Cohorts can also be updated to reflect changes, such as when new waves of data are available or upon the introduction of a new test.

More information: Explore the JPND Global Cohort Portal:
www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/global-cohort-portal/

Provided by Medical Research Council

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