

In these unprecedented times, one might be forgiven for thinking that dementia research is taking a back seat to the fight to develop treatment or vaccines for COVID-19. Not for dementia researchers - who realise that dementia is as big a health crisis as COVID-19, and one that is even more difficult to solve. Despite lock-down, the Race Against Dementia Fellows are continuing their work, even from home. You can keep in touch with their progress [here](#).

New investments and new Race Against Dementia (RAD) Fellows

Our mission is to channel the funds that we raise into dementia research. To this end, we are very excited to announce two extensions to the RAD Fellowship programme.

- 1) We have ring-fenced an additional £1 million to extend our collaboration with [Alzheimer's Research UK](#), and in July we opened applications for the appointment of new RAD Fellows in that 5-year research programme.
- 2) We are also delighted to announce a new collaboration with [Dementia Australia](#) with the appointment of two Australian fellowships, jointly funded by RAD and Dementia Australia – drawing on the funds raised in previous years in Australia.

In March 2020, Sir Jackie was appointed as Honorary International Dementia Australia Ambassador. We had planned a gala dinner for over 550 people, in Melbourne at the time of the Australian Grand Prix, to jointly raise funds with Dementia Australia. Sadly, that event was postponed at the last minute due to COVID-19. Brilliantly nearly all our event sponsors are allowing us to hold their sponsorship in trust for a 2021 event, during which we will be targeting additional funds to build on this programme with Dementia Australia.

Injecting 'F1 attitude' into dementia research

The RAD Fellows form a virtual team, with a common goal of contributing to the prevention or treatment of the diseases that cause dementia. We are creating a Leadership Development Programme for the Fellows with two goals:

- 1) To fast-track the development of the RAD Fellows to become leaders in their fields
- 2) To catalyzing a culture change in dementia research that will speed up progress.

The content of this programme is inspired by and drawn from high performance commercial research, including F1 teams. The programme itself will be experimental, trialling and building new ways of working in dementia research, over the 5-year fellowships. The key elements will follow three themes:

- 🏎️ Personal presence and impact
- 🏎️ Teamwork and communication
- 🏎️ Leadership and management

In 2020, we now have the additional challenge of delivering this programme virtually. This started in May with a further session with Prof Mark Jenkins (Cranfield Business School) on [Lessons from Formula One motor racing](#), to create high performance culture.

From June, the Fellows have been undertaking [Hinsta's](#) Better Life programme. Each Fellow will be working with a Hinsta Performance Coach, using the same tools and techniques that Hinsta use with nearly all the F1 drivers, to build and sustain peak performance.

In the coming months the fellows will also receive training in communication and presentation skills from the globally acclaimed [Kingstree Group](#).

Building the Race Against Dementia team

In June we formalised the roles of two trusted Scientific Advisors, an important step in our development as a charity. We are delighted to welcome Prof Siddharthan Chandran (University of Edinburgh) and Prof Philip Scheltens (VU University of Amsterdam) to the Race Against Dementia Team. You can read more about their appointment [here](#).

We have also appointed Dr Penny Moyle as CEO. Penny has been with Race Against Dementia for the last two years as an advisor and consultant – and the driving force that has helped us to establish ourselves as a source of fresh-thinking, investing in early-career researchers to catalyse a culture change in dementia research.

Our Board of Trustees has also been strengthened with the addition of two new Trustees, Linda Cooper and Chris Bliss. Together with Penny, Linda and Chris form the [RAD Executive Committee](#), responsible for the day-to-day running of our operations.

Memories with Sir Jackie Stewart, by Race Against Dementia

During lockdown, the RAD team, led by entrepreneur and RAD volunteer Jon Knight, has created a new digital content to broaden our reach.

We are capturing interviews with Sir Jackie, chronicling his memories and thoughts from a lifetime in motorsports. Interviews will be interlinked with discussion about the dementia crisis, and how F1 thinking drives Race Against Dementia, with the addition of some exciting guest appearances. Find out more [here](#).

Want to Know More?

If you would like to know more about our work, please contact penny@raceagainstdementia.com or to make a donation, please go to www.raceagainstdementia.com/donate.

For the latest news and updates please follow us on our [website](#) and on social media [@racingdementia](#).

