

# EADC Resident and Research Fellow Section (RRFS)

## Exchange through internship programs

### Name and location EADC hosting center

**Department of Old Age Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London**

### Link to center's website

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/academic-psychiatry/about/departments/old-age>

### PI of the EADC hosting center

Prof. Dr. Dag Aarsland

### Contact person of the EADC hosting center

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### Description of the center

Our centre includes 3 senior clinical academics and 3-5 junior clinical academics, and a number of dedicated junior research support staff. The centre includes a basic neuroscience research group working on pre-clinical disease models. The main research area is clinical translational dementia research, with a biomarker and clinical trial focus, with a large commercial trial arm in addition to academic studies. In addition to Alzheimer's disease, a main focus is dementia with Lewy bodies and we work closely with the KCH Parkinson's research centre (PI Prof K Ray Chaudhuri).

Both centres are very well connected with several common projects and researchers with double affiliations, and both centres are heavily embedded in a number of international research activities, including co-ordinating the European DLB Consortium, and EU studies including RADAR-AD and PD-MIND (recently completed IMI studies) and an ongoing IHI project to start November 2023.

### Internship program

Program: For Physicians

Optimal duration of the internship: 2- 4 weeks

The program will offer medical candidate to observe and participate in clinical activities within multidisciplinary teams of Mental Health of Older Adult services and Memory Services of South London and Maudsley National Health Service/ King's College London.

This will include initial assessments and reviews of patients presenting with cognitive impairment and neuropsychiatric symptoms. Assessments will include in depth history taking, neuropsychological assessments, neuroimaging and lumbar puncture. The clinical assessments and follow ups care management are done face to face in clinics or at patients' home (community) or virtually as appropriate and convenient to patients.

Additionally, candidates will have opportunities to get involved in clinical research within the centre which complements the clinical services.

#### Program: For Researchers

Optimal duration of the internship: 2- 4 weeks

The candidate will have the opportunity to be involved in dementia research portfolio within King's Health Partners (KHP) which ranges from basic science to large-scale clinical trials and global dementia epidemiology, with a track-record of internationally important dementia discoveries including new dementia genes, therapeutic targets and 'omic' biomarkers. KHP is also a leader in NHS innovation for dementia services, setting up the first memory clinics in the NHS.

Candidates will be encouraged to broaden their research experience by participating in ongoing project, examples of projects include: i) Biomarker studies (blood, CSF and neuroimaging) for mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's and other dementias; ii) cohorts for early cognitive impairment ascertainment and follow-up including PROTECT, an online longitudinal cohort of 30,000 participants <http://www.protectstudy.org.uk>) a range of multi-centre randomised controlled trials of interventions for cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's Disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies and pre-dementia diagnoses.

During the 2-4 week program the candidates can develop research hypothesis within the wider KCL dementia portfolio linked to their specific area of research interests. They

They can also gain understanding of advanced statistical analysis, including techniques for 'omics' and neuroimaging analysis, big databases and technology/digital advances in dementia research and care (example RADAR-AD).