

Your guide to being a Friend of the Care Research & Technology Centre



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Welcome!

Thank you for taking the time to consider becoming a Friend of the Care Research & Technology Centre (Friend of CR&T).

This booklet is designed to give you an overview of:

- what the Friends of CR&T network is,
- how you can get involved and shape our research,
- and hopefully answer any questions you might have

We hope you will **join our community** so that together, we can work to shape the future of care research, and improve the lives of people affected by dementia.

Friends of CR&T

What is the Care Research & Technology Centre?

The Care Research & Technology Centre (CR&T) is part of the UK Dementia Research Institute. Our goal is to enable people living with dementia to live safely and independently in their own homes by utilising cutting-edge technologies which can transform and personalise care.

What is the Friends of CR&T network?

The Friends of CR&T network invites anyone who has been affected by dementia to get involved in our research by being a Friend of the Centre. This allows you to shape our research, on your terms, as and when you want.

We see people with lived experience of dementia as a critical part of our team; to ensure our research meets the most pressing needs of people affected. The network aims to create a community where researchers, clinicians and people with lived experience, can all learn from one another.

Why become a Friend of CR&T?

- ✓ Have your say in the future of dementia care research
- ✓ Meet people with similar lived experience
- ✓ Get involved in research on your terms
- ✓ Learn more about dementia care research
- ✓ Work alongside doctors, scientists and engineers
- ✓ Be paid for your time and expenses

How can you get involved?



What might involvement look like?

You can choose the topics and projects that are most interesting and suitable to your interests and experiences.

Below are a few examples of what your involvement could look like – we always try to offer both online and in-person options. Locations for events and meetings will vary with each project.

We hope that our methods for involving people with lived experience will evolve as our community grows.



Identifying and prioritising research needs



Advising research project plans



Shaping communication materials



Testing prototypes in workshops



Helping understand research findings



Sharing research with wider communities

Your questions answered



Do I need specific skills to join?

We welcome and value everyone's experiences of dementia. No specific skills or qualifications are required to become a Friend of CR&T.



How often am I expected to get involved?

How often you get involved is up to you. There is no minimum participation required to be a part of the network.



Will I be paid for my contributions?

Yes. We will always pay you for your time. We follow the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) guidelines on payment for Public Involvement.



Will my travel costs be covered?

Yes. We will always do our best to provide the support you need to be involved in the network. This includes covering travel costs incurred by attending meetings or events.



What if I no longer want to be a Friend?

We hope you will want to stay a part of our community, but we completely understand if circumstances change. If at any point you decide you no longer want to be a Friend of CR&T, please contact us and you will be removed from the network and no longer contacted by us.

Become a Friend of the Care Research & Technology Centre

Scan the QR code or go to:
www.bit.ly/3lcNkzS

Please get in touch if you are not able to access the online form, or would like help filling it in.

We will work with you to support your involvement.



Share your thoughts

We want this community to be welcoming for everybody.

If you think we can improve what we do, please get in touch to share your thoughts. We are always open to feedback so we can learn how to do better.

✉ **Email:** care-research@imperial.ac.uk

🌐 **Website:** www.imperial.ac.uk/uk-dri-care-research-technology